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Japan

Gorbachev Visit Continues

Prime Minister Kaifu Hosts Banquet 17 Apr

Gorbachev Speech

OW1704165291 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1338 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Speech by USSR President M.S. Gorbachev at banquet hosted by Prime Minister Kaifu at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo; Gorbachev speaks in Russian, with translation provided by Japanese subtitles; translated from the Russian—live]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Prime Minister, esteemed Mrs. Kaifu, ladies and gentlemen, comrades:

I must begin by expressing sincere gratitude for the cordiality and hospitality that we have constantly been shown during these days. We see in this an expression of good will toward our country and respect for our people.

We came to Japan with a firm desire to improve relations, with the intention to seek better mutual understanding, and to pursue the task of bringing our peoples closer and expand the scope of confidence, at the same time promoting the formation of Soviet-Japanese cooperation as a factor of international...[changes thought] as an important component of world politics. Personal relationships between statesmen are of considerable significance in this. Personal contacts have become a characteristic of international activities in recent years.

In the person of Mr. Kaifu I have found a partner with whom I can discuss the essence of the matter without diplomatic double-talk or vagueness. This infuses the necessary confidence into our dialogue, although we have only just met for the first time. I hope that the dialogue with the prime minister of Japan, successfully begun in Tokyo, can continue between us in Moscow. We have the foundation we need for shaping our new relations. You cannot fault our peoples for lack of benevolence; I see the task of politicians and diplomats as allowing full manifestation of natural feelings of good-neighborliness.

The talks with Japanese leaders have shown how much can be achieved if we meet halfway. We do not close our eyes to differences, but as the Japanese saying goes: Squabblers in a boat learn a common language. By steering this boat toward the cherished aim, we will be able to leave in the past controversies not worth carrying into the 21st century.

I am most satisfied by the fact that, with Mr. Kaifu, we are striving to look at Soviet-Japanese relations in the context of growing world unity and interdependence of states. This also raises our responsibility for seeing that our relations fittingly fulfill their international function. The place and role of the Soviet Union and Japan in the contemporary world objectively and insistently require that relations and cooperation be qualitatively different from what they are now. This was precisely my position when I called Mr. Kaifu during the most critical point in the crisis and war in the Gulf. This is also my position in discussing all problems during my visit to Japan. We are ready for constructive dialogue and cooperation with Japan on a broad range of issues and, naturally, on regional problems.

I would refrain from debating or siding with those who presently want to make a substantial case over whether the 21st century will be the century of the Pacific Ocean. But it is already clear to everyone that a new world order will be impossible without independent, original, and authoritative participation and contribution to world politics from the countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean Basin.

The end of the Cold War has seen the emergence of many major and promising ideas. One of them, on the formation of a unified zone of cooperation in the northern hemisphere, was discussed at the European summit meeting in Paris. This does not mean that Europe and the United States should foist their order on other countries in this hemisphere. They are simply beginning a great task on their end.

The Soviet Union is a Eurasian power; its territory spans almost half this zone. Naturally it would occupy a substantial place in a new order. But we—and we are confident that others feel this too—cannot imagine this great process without the active participation of Japan and without healthy and full-blooded Soviet- Japanese relations.

In addressing those present I address the Japanese people, a great nation, and our close neighbor. I address them with hope and belief in our joint future. The Soviet Union is ready to go half way toward its Far Eastern neighbor. We want goodneighborliness and equal partnership. I would like us to take steps in this direction as a result of this visit.

On this occasion, I would like to express feelings of sincere gratitude to the people of Tokyo for their kind feelings expressed in all our contacts with them. They and all the people of Japan should know that friendship and cooperation with great Japan is desired in the Soviet Union. And if this is what our peoples want, who can stop them? I do not think that there is anyone who would risk this; on the contrary—and I could feel this in my conversations with Mr. Kaifu—we will encourage expression of these feelings, sentiments, and desires of our people in our political activity.

I propose a toast to the health of Mr. Prime Minister and his wife, of all those participating in this solemn reception, for the prosperity of Japan, for the happiness and well-being of the Japanese people, and for understanding and good relations between the Soviet Union and Japan.

Kaifu Speech

OW1804080991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1311 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Speech by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the 17 April banquet in honor of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo; passage by passage Russian translation provided by unidentified Japanese interpreter; following from the Japanese—live broadcast in progress]

[Text] [...Russian translation provides the following: "Mr. Gorbachev, and esteemed Mrs. Gorbachev; ladies and gentlemen:]

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity today to host a banquet to welcome your excellency, Mr. President. On reflection, the presidential visit to Japan is the first by a highest leader in Japanese-Soviet relations and, as such, the Japanese people and I myself are filled with deeper emotion. I express my heartfelt welcome to the president, Mrs. Gorbachev, and members of the entourage accompanying them. [applause]

Your excellency the president, the 20th century, the last decade of which we are spending now, was an epochal century in the history of mankind. Having experienced two tragic world wars and tided over the subsequent Cold War, mankind appears, at last, to be producing an awareness as a global community.

The rushing waves of changes, which have arisen throughout the world in this big current in the past few years, are worthy of special mention even in this eventful 20th century. It is beyond doubt that they will be reflected as a colossal, once in a lifetime watershed in the eyes of historians of future generations.

That this is about to coincide with a big turning point for our two countries can be called an inevitability of history. Drastic improvement of Japanese-Soviet relations, which our two countries are about to carry out hand in hand and which we must carry out, is not only a matter for our two countries but something which all neighboring countries in the Asia-Pacific and throughout whole world expect.

In that sense, I think that the current visit to Japan by the president is an opportunity that can turn into an epochal event in light of the histories of the two countries or from the viewpoint of the current world politics on the whole.

Your excellency the president, the new thinking diplomacy of your country, which you have pursued for the past few years, is not unrelated to the waves of changes in history. In the backdrop of this are the unprecedented, great reform which your country has been carrying out at home, or efforts for perestroyka, which has now become an internationally common word.

Today when democracy, the freedom of individuals, and the rule of law are becoming universal values, if your country begins taking forceful steps as the champion of these universal values, the superiority of democracy in the community of mankind will become unshakable. The hopes for the establishment of a true world order based on international peace, security, and justice will also become a reality. In that sense, I think that, of all the values appreciated anew under perestroyka, the perception that the value of all mankind takes precedence is the most epochal one.

Great poet Boris Pasternak, who bequeathed not only the result of the spirit of the people of your country but also an immortal legacy to the entire mankind, wrote in Doctor Zhivago: A premonition of freedom continued hanging in the air throughout the entire postwar period. He closed its first part with scenes of the holy capital of Moscow being wrapped with an impressive sense of relief, visited by the happiness of the freedom of spirit which set its feet in the future. Is this not a really impressive writing, which foresaw the breath of freedom that is resurrecting today, with his poetic sensitivity?

Our country wishes from the bottom of its heart that your excellency will continue to vigorously promote the line of reform under a lofty idea and succeed. From this viewpoint Japan intends to extend as much assistance as possible to your reform in the technological area.

I hope that the numerous agreements that are to be concluded on the occasion of your current visit will be a help toward supporting both the cooperative relations between our two countries and the line of reform in your country.

Frankly, the course of history traversed by our country and yours was by no means even. It was a course which should be called a thorny path—this is never an exaggeration—entailing pains to the people of the two countries. It is, at the same time, an instance, which is too numerous to mention in the history of mankind, not necessarily limited to the history of Japan-Soviet relations. It is also true that mankind has been overcoming such arduous paths with maximum courage and wisdom. We wish to achieve great strides in the relationship between Japan and the Soviet Union.

To raise a curtain for a new era for such bilateral relations, the president and I spent sufficient time yesterday through today to hold frank and serious discussions on bilateral relations, including the resolution of the territorial issue and conclusion of a peace treaty, as well as questions involving the international situation. I pray that a breakthrough for drastic improvements in Japanese- Soviet relations will occur as quickly as possible through these discussions between your excellency the president and me.

Your excellency the president, I sincerely pray that, although it is regrettable indeed that it is for a short period, your current sojourn in our country will be a pleasant and impressive one to you and your wife. I sincerely pray that you will be able to take this opportunity to come in contact with things Japanese and, above all, the heart of Japan.

Distinguished guests present here, to the health of his excellency President Gorbachev and Mrs. Gorbachev, to the prosperity of the Soviet Union, and to the success of the common efforts of Japan and the Soviet Union, I propose to drink this toast. I request that you give cheers in chorus, please.

Cheers! ["Cheers!" in chorus] Thank you.

Gorbachev Encourages Cultural Exchanges

OW1704170491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Cultural exchange is the key to mutual understanding and cooperation, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told a group of 300 students from six universities from Tokyo and Kyoto on Wednesday.

Gorbachev, accompanied by his wife Raisa, met the students at a Tokyo hotel for what was billed as a one-hour question and answer session.

The Soviet leader, in a speech before the students' questions, spoke frankly of the mistakes and problems the Soviet Union is experiencing during its attempts to modernize.

He chose a poem from the Manyoshu, the earliest extant collection of Japanese poetry dating from the eighth century, to illustrate the importance, but fleeting nature, of human life.

The example of the Manyoshu poem showed that scientific progress must be secondary to human morality in the face of environmental disasters such as those experienced at Chernobyl or Hiroshima, he said.

Gorbachev also implied he was impressed with Japan's educational standard and admitted he thought the Soviet Union was aware of the need to boost its educational level to achieve economic progress, but had "miscalculated."

The six universities represented at the meeting included Keio University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Waseda University, Tokai University and Soka University from Tokyo and Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

Each university sent a delegation of 50 students and staff. Most of the students chose to dress conservatively, the men in dark suits and the women in equally conservative dress suits.

Gorbachev was scheduled to answer six questions, one from a representative of each university, but with little time left before the start of his third round of summit talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, he was able to take only two.

Takao Hosoka, 21, of Keio University, confessing that he was "very excited," asked in a booming voice whether Gorbachev saw a linkage between the return of the Soviet-held northern islands and the receipt of economic aid from Japan.

Gorbachev, avoiding a direct reply, said the territorial question is something that should be solved in the course of improving relations between the two countries.

The second question came from Yoshihisa Masaki, 21, of Waseda University, who wondered how Gorbachev would feel if he lost power as a result of his program of "reform from below."

The Soviet leader, calling this an easy question, said he would have no problem if he were removed in a legal fashion, since he is the leader of a "democratic revolution" and believes in the rule of law. [passage omitted]

Kaifu, Gorbachev Plant Tree To Mark Visit

OW1804063191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A relaxed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu planted a winter linden tree in the grounds of the Akasaka State Guesthouse on Thursday morning before beginning their fourth round of summit talks.

Gorbachev and Kaifu smiled and chatted as they piled soil around the tree, commonly cultivated for shade and ornamentation along Moscow streets.

Strong winds and scattered showers were forecast in Tokyo for the day, but the ceremony took place during a brief spell of sunshine.

The two leaders were originally scheduled to give the tree three ceremonial spadefuls of soil each before going on to the negotiating table. But, when Gorbachev appeared to enjoy the occasion and circled the tree with his spade, patting down the soil like a true gardener, Kaifu joined in and the two did a thorough job of the planting.

The two-meter high, four-year-old tree, tied with red and white ribbons—the colors traditionally used in Japan to mark a happy occasion—stands next to an American dogwood planted by U.S. President Gerald Ford.

Linden trees normally grow to a height of 20 meters.

In the Soviet Union, several species of the cream and gold flowering linden are cultivated for making cloth and paper. The soft, firm wood is also used in making piano keys and cabinets.

Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, told Kaifu the wood from the tree is used to carve statues of the Virgin Mary.

Gorbachev arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a four-day state visit.

Kaifu, Gorbachev Open 4th Round of Talks

OW1804015591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met for an unscheduled fourth round of talks Thursday morning to seek a breakthrough in the long- standing territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union.

The extra session opened at 10:27 AM at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, instead of 10 AM as originally scheduled, after Gorbachev and his wife Raisa attended a tree-planting ceremony at the guesthouse to commemorate his visit to Japan—the first ever by a Soviet leader.

A hectic schedule since their arrival on Tuesday apparently was taking its toll on the Gorbachevs, who canceled a trip to see the cherry blossoms at the Shinjuku Imperial Garden and visit the new Tokyo City Hall, the tallest building in Japan.

Raisa also chose to stay at the guesthouse instead of traveling to Yokohama to visit a construction machinery factory.

Kaifu and Gorbachev held three rounds of talks on Tuesday and Wednesday, but were apparently unable to break the impasse on the territorial issue.

The dispute concerns Japan's claim to four islands off northeastern Hokkaido—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai Group of islets—which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Japan maintains that it will refuse to sign a peace treaty and will withhold any significant economic aid to the Soviet Union unless Moscow returns the four islands to Japan.

Gorbachev "made no new proposal. There was no concession," a senior Liberal Democratic Party politician said after hearing a report from Kaifu on the third summit session.

Kaifu told reporters before the meeting that he will press for the return of the islands—referred to in Japan as the northern territories—in the final session.

"I have made up my mind. I will do everything, according to principle," he said.

Kaifu consulted with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama for one and a half hours at his official residence before setting out for the make-or-break session with Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Ministry Official Notes Tension

OW1804053891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev debated a thorny territorial issue in a tension-filled but inconclusive meeting Thursday in a last-minute effort to find a breakthrough in the long- standing dispute, a Japanese Foreign Ministry source said.

The source said the two leaders agreed to meet again in the afternoon for their fifth round of talks since Gorbachev arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Japanese officials briefing reporters on the morning session would not disclose the contents of the talks except to say that they focused on the territorial dispute and on work on a peace treaty and the language of a joint statement expected to be issued later in the day.

They also indicated that exchanges between the two leaders during the fourth session, which lasted two hours and 20 minutes, including a 20-minute break, were heated and tough.

"Of course there were moments of tension," a Foreign Ministry source said.

The source added, however, that the two leaders, who had already met for more than nine hours, were "heading little by little to a conclusion." [passage omitted]

The source said the Soviet side intends to use the "indirect confirmation" formula in the joint statement.

The Soviet Union does not plan to make a direct reference to the 1956 declaration but will declare that it will abide by its international obligations, the source said. [passage omitted]

The Gorbachevs plan to leave Tokyo by train on Friday morning for a sight-seeing trip to Kyoto and then fly on to Nagasaki before leaving Japan for South Korea.

Kaifu, Gorbachev Break Off Talks

OW1804044791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0412 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev broke off an extra round of talks Thursday and agreed to meet again later in the day in a final effort to find a breakthrough in the long-standing territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Their unscheduled fourth session of talks, held at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, began at 10:27 AM and lasted two hours and 20 minutes, including a 10-minute break.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry source said the two leaders agreed to meet again Thursday afternoon.

The fifth round will cause a delay in the signing ceremony of a series of 15 agreements and documents on a wide range of bilateral cooperation which were agreed earlier between the two countries.

A press conference by Gorbachev, scheduled to begin at 4:15 PM at the Japan National Press Club will also be delayed, the Foreign Ministry source said.

Meanwhile, a Soviet source traveling with Gorbachev said Thursday that Moscow favors using indirect language to confirm a 1956 pledge that it will return two of the four disputed islands off northern Japan once a peace treaty is signed between the two countries.

The source said the Soviet side intends to use the "indirect confirmation" formula in a joint statement expected to be released later Thursday.

The Soviet Union does not plan to make a direct reference to the 1956 declaration but will declare that it will abide by its international obligations, the source said.

The Soviet Union promised to hand back Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets to Japan after the conclusion of a peace treaty in the joint declaration, which restored diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Japan wants the Soviet Union to return not only the two smaller islands but also two larger ones—Etorofu and Kunashiri—off northeastern Hokkaido, and has refused to sign a peace treaty with Moscow pending a settlement of the territorial dispute. [passage omitted]

News Blackout Maintained on Talks

OW1804092091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev broke off their marathon talks on a bilateral territorial dispute Thursday, leaving their aides to work on the language of a document that will summarize the results of the Kremlin's leader first visit to Japan.

The two leaders, who met for nearly four hours Thursday, suspended their talks at 5:30 P.M. [0830 GMT; time as received] and went to attend an international children's festival in Tokyo.

Both leaders "wanted to attend the festival," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said the two leaders will meet again Thursday night for the sixth round of talks since Gorbachev arrived in Japan on Tuesday.

Officials maintained a news blackout on the specifics of the talks, only saying that they focused on the territorial dispute and on work on the proposed peace treaty as well as the language of a joint statement which officials have said will be issued at the end of the series of summit talks.

A Japanese official indicated that the two leaders remained divided on the territorial dispute.

"The impression we have is that the points of debate have been narrowed. But there is no conclusion yet," the official said.

The official said the afternoon session, like the one in the morning, was filled with tension but remained businesslike.

"There was no yelling, no banging on the table, or that sort of thing," the official said.

Apart from the children's festival, the extra sessions Thursday made a shambles of the tightly arranged schedule for Gorbachev's last full day in Tokyo.

It forced the postponement until Friday of a farewell call on Gorbachev and his wife Raisa by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and pushed back the signing ceremony of a series of 15 agreements and documents on a wide range of bilateral cooperation accords reached earlier between the two countries.

A pre-departure press conference by Gorbachev scheduled for later in the day was also delayed, but Soviet sources said the Kremlin leader wants to hold both the signing ceremony and the press meeting after the late-night sixth round of talks, expected to begin after 10 P.M. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Urges Better Ties at Luncheon

OW1804103991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called on the Japanese people Thursday to work together with the people of his country for friendlier bilateral relations.

Gorbachev made the call at a 70-minute luncheon hosted by House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi and House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya.

The luncheon was attended by 16 Japanese and 16 Soviet political leaders.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Government and people hope to build long-lasting good relations with Japan.

"I am pleased to feel the Japanese people have good feelings toward the Soviet people," he said.

Following his speech, the Kremlin leader chatted in a friendly manner with senior Japanese politicians, including former Prime Ministers Noboru Takeshita and Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe also attended the luncheon, in his first public appearance in four months. Abe, leader of a major faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has been hospitalized with an unspecified illness.

Gorbachev, attending the luncheon between unscheduled extra rounds of summit talks with Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu over the Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, showed he has not lost his sense of humor when Sakurauchi brought him a bottle of "Gorbachev" brand vodka.

"This is strong stuff," he said. "Two or three glasses leave you drunk. Did Prime Minister Kaifu ask you to let me have it?"

Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and other senior aides to Gorbachev, along with five top Japanese opposition leaders, also attended the luncheon.

Kaifu, Gorbachev Begin 5th Round of Talks

OW1804062691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev resumed their talks Thursday afternoon in a last minute attempt to reach accord on the thorny territorial dispute and establish closer bilateral relations.

The unscheduled afternoon session followed a tension-filled, inconclusive morning meeting.

Japanese officials briefing reporters on the morning session would not disclose the contents of the talks except to say they focused on the territorial dispute and on work on a peace treaty and the language of a joint statement expected to be issued later in the day. [passage omitted]

Talks Focus on Islands Issue

OW1804095291 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The fifth round of the summit talks between Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev, focusing on the northern territories issue, has been continuing since 0600 GMT.

It seems that the final consultations are continuing on the proposal for confirming all the four islands, including Kunashiri and Etorofu, in addition to the two islands, Habomai and Shikotan, whose return is stated in the 1956 Japanese-Soviet joint statement, as the object for discussion in dealing with the territorial issue.

Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev held the fourth round of summit talks on the most important issue pending between Japan and the Soviet Union, which concerns the northern territories issue, this morning. Following this round of talks, they started the fifth round of talks at 0600 GMT, and it seems that final consultations on the details of the joint statement might be continuing. The joint statement is scheduled to be announced later. The talks went into recess at 0750 GMT and it is expected that the talks will reopen in 30 minutes.

During rounds of talks held thus far, the Soviet side admitted the existence of the northern territories issue. Therefore, it seems that final consultations at the fifth round of talks center on the proposal that all the four islands, including Kunashiri and Etorofu, in addition to the two islands, Habomai and Shikotan, whose return is stated in the 1956 Japanese-Soviet Joint Statement, should be confirmed as the object for discussion in dealing with the territorial issue. And it has been firmed up that the so-called concept of expanded equilibrium, meaning efforts will be made to settle the territorial issue while improving overall relations between Japan and the Soviet Union, will be included in the joint statement.

Moreover, it is observed that at the fifth round of the talks, the Japanese side is urging the Soviet side to confirm that the issue concerning two of the four northern islands—Habomai and Shikotan—has already been settled in the 1956 Japanese-Soviet joint statement, when viewed from the standpoint of international law. While the Japanese side seems to be insisting on including Etorofu and Kunashiri in the territorial issue that has to be settled, the Soviet side seems to be rather reluctant to agree to this because of its severe domestic situation. According to the Soviet side, if the two islands are included in the joint statement, it will be tantamount to admitting the return of the other two islands. Thus, the situation remains rather delicate as to whether this concept will be explicitly included in the joint statement or not.

5th Round of Talks Conclude

OW1804101191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0920 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The fifth round of summit talks between Prime Minister Kaifu and Soviet President Gorbachev, which centered on the northern territories issue, has ended, and the two nations have confirmed that all the four northern islands will be regarded as the object for handling the territorial issue. And it has been decided that a further sixth round of talks will be held this evening to consult on how to deal with the 1956 Japanese-Soviet joint statement, which stipulates the return of the two islands, Habomai and Shikotan. Here is a report from the Foreign Ministry:

[Video shows Kenzo Sano of the NHK political department reporting from a room at the Foreign Ministry] [Begin Sano recording] The fifth round of Japanese-Soviet summit talks between Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev ended a while ago, at 0850 GMT. However, no final settlement has been reached, and it has been decided that the sixth round of summit talks will be held at around 1300 GMT. A briefing by the Japanese side ended just a while ago but as usual, no details about actual exchanges were revealed this time. However, it is said that points for argument have been narrowed down and that each of the two top leaders has thoroughly expressed their views. And it is observed that final consultations will be held at the upcoming talks on the details of the Japanese- Soviet joint statement which is scheduled to be announced later. [passage omitted]

In this connection, it is observed that at the sixth round of summit talks, scheduled for later this evening, final consultations will be held on how to handle the 1956 Japanese-Soviet joint statement. You have heard a report from the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

Kaifu, Gorbachev Meet for 6th Round of Talks

OW1804125491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed Thursday to mention the four islands disputed by their countries in a joint communique they planned to issue at the end of their sixth meeting later in the day, informed sources said.

A final settlement on the territorial dispute, which has strained relations between the two countries for decades, was not expected, however, the sources said.

They said the two sides have yet to work out the exact language of the document, which will summarize the results of Gorbachev's four-day visit to Japan, the first by a Kremlin leader.

Kaifu and Gorbachev, who met for nearly four hours Thursday, suspended their talks at 5:30 P.M., leaving their aides to work on the language of the joint communique.

The two leaders were to meet again late Thursday night for the sixth round of talks since Gorbachev arrived in Japan on Tuesday.

The sources said the two sides agreed to list the four Soviet-held islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—off northeastern Hokkaido as territories subject to "border delimination." [as received]

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Kaifu urged Gorbachev to reconfirm a pledge Moscow made in 1956 to return the two smaller islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group—following the conclusion of a peace treaty.

However, the Kremlin leader rejected the demand, citing strong opposition to such a commitment inside the Soviet Union, the sources said.

Gorbachev was only ready to give an indirect reconfirmation of the pledge, declaring that the Soviet Union will abide by its international commitments.

The 1956 joint declaration in which the Soviet Union promised to return the two smaller islands was ratified by the Soviet parliament but unilaterally renounced by Moscow in 1960 after Japan renewed its security treaty with the United States.

As another concession to Japan, Gorbachev also plans to announce a withdrawal of Soviet troops from the four islands, known in Japan as the northern territories. [passage omitted]

Kaifu, Gorbachev Sign Joint Communique

OW1804150191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a joint communique after concluding the sixth and final round of talks Thursday night.

The two leaders then linked their little fingers as a gesture of a promise to each other.

The conclusion of the communique, held at the Akasaka Guesthouse, culminates Gorbachev's four-day state visit to Japan since Tuesday.

Referring to the territorial dispute between the two countries, the communique said the two leaders discussed in detail and thoroughly issues relating to the conclusion of a peace treaty, including border "delimitation" of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—the four Soviet-held islands claimed by Japan.

The document said the proposed peace treaty should be regarded as the final settlement of World War II, including the territorial dispute.

This is the first time since 1956 that the territorial issue has been mentioned in any statement issued by the two countries.

It said the Soviet Union will allow Japanese nationals to travel to the northern islands without visas and proposed to cut Soviet military forces deployed there.

The two leaders pledged to speed up the conclusion of the peace treaty, saying that it is a "matter of top priority" between the two nations.

15 Accords on Cooperation With USSR Signed

OW1804150891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union on Thursday signed or issued 15 agreements, exchanges of notes, and memorandums aimed at promoting economic, technological, cultural, and environmental cooperation.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and Soviet ministers concerned signed five agreements, four exchanges of notes, and three memorandums in a ceremony at the Akasaka State Guesthouse attended by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The two countries also issued three joint communiques on working- level cooperation.

In one of the agreements, Japan pledges technical assistance to the Soviet Union to facilitate perestroyka and the country's switch to a market economy.

It provides for visits by Soviet management trainees, the dispatch of Japanese private and government experts, and the holding of seminars in such fields as finance, production, distribution, and labor productivity.

A new trade and payments pact for 1991-1995 covers trade promotion, methods of payment, and dispute arbitration.

An exchange of notes renews a coastal trade pact between Japan and the Soviet Far East and provides for the promotion of trade in consumer goods.

The two countries agree in two joint communiques to encourage the mutual holding of exhibitions and trade fairs and cooperate in the field of fisheries.

Two exchanges of notes create new air routes between Niigata on Japan's northwestern coast and Irkutsk, between the central Japanese city of Nagoya and Moscow, and allow Japan to increase its flights across Siberian airspace to Western Europe.

Another agreement calls for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power, including exchanges of experts and information on nuclear safety, environmental control, and fundamental research.

The two countries agree in a memorandum to cooperate on measures to deal with the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, including exchanges of research data.

An environmental conservation pact outlines exchanges of experts and information in such areas as air and water pollution, land pollution from industrial spills, and the flora and fauna in each country.

An exchange of notes calls for mutual exchanges of students, art exhibitions, concerts and film showings, and a memorandum specifies cooperation in protecting cultural assets by allowing joint research and technical cooperation in the excavation of the Pazyryk burial site in southern Siberia.

Japan pledges in a joint communique to cooperate in the establishment of the Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies in Moscow.

Moscow pledges in an agreement to hand over a list of Japanese prisoners of war who died in Siberia after World War II, and promises to improve the maintenance of their graves and make it easier for relatives to visit the graves.

A memorandum provides the basis for strengthening working-level talks between the two governments in such fields as trade, culture, science, and economics.

Further on Studies Center

OW1804050291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO - Japan and the Soviet Union agreed Thursday to establish, with Japanese financial support, a research center in Moscow for the study of contemporary Japan, officials said.

Vladlen Martynov, director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economy and International Relations, and Tadakiyo Nomura, a board member of the Japan Foundation, the Japanese Government's international cultural exchange arm, signed the agreement at the foundation's hall in central Tokyo on Thursday.

The new institute, to be called the Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies, will expand Moscow's current Japan research facility and is aimed at helping the Soviet Union's perestroyka policy through comparative studies of the politics, economics, and laws of both nations, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Personnel for the center have yet to be selected, but proposals include the dispatch of Japanese academics, donation of books on modern Japan, the launching of Japan-Soviet joint studies, and holding international symposiums, the officials said.

Researchers will launch the new center, which will be a part of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, around autumn this year. Japan is allocating an initial budget of 30 million yen for fiscal 1991, which will cover salaries, among other things, the officials said.

At the signing ceremony, Aleksandr Yakovlev, an aide accompanying President Mikhail Gorbachev on his Japan trip, told the gathering that the agreement on the new center is one of the achievements of the president's visit to Japan.

"The center will serve as a kind of coordinating body of the two nations, and will also work to enhance understanding of the Soviet Union abroad," he said.

Nobuo Shimotomai, a professor at Tokyo's Hosei University, and other noted Japanese researchers on Soviet affairs, also attended the signing ceremony.

The agreement is one of 15 documents on economic and technical cooperation that will be signed or issued during Gorbachev's visit, which ends Friday, officials said.

Soviets Stop Short of Commitment on Islands

OW1804155791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1547 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a joint communique Thursday that for the first time cited the four-Soviet held north Pacific islands as an issue requiring "border delimitation" between the two countries.

The document, however, stopped short of any Soviet commitment to return the disputed islands to Japan.

The two leaders signed the document after more than 10 hours of talks over the past three days, including three sessions Thursday alone.

The communique, signed at the Akasaka Guesthouse shortly before midnight, culminates Gorbachev's four-day visit to Japan, the first by a Soviet head of state.

After putting their signatures to the joint communique, the two leaders exchanged the documents and linked their little fingers as a gesture of their promises to each other.

Referring to the territorial dispute between the two countries, the communique said the two leaders discussed in detail and thoroughly issues relating to the conclusion of a peace treaty, including border "delimitation" of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—the four Soviet-held islands claimed by Japan.

The document said the proposed peace treaty should be regarded as the final settlement of World War II, including the territorial dispute.

This is the first time since 1956 that the territorial issue has been mentioned in any statement issued by the two countries.

It said the Soviet Union will allow Japanese nationals to travel to the northern islands without visas and proposed to cut Soviet military forces deployed there.

The two leaders pledged to speed up the conclusion of the peace treaty, saying it is a "matter of top priority" between the two nations.

In remarks after the signing ceremony, Kaifu said he was delighted that the joint communique and 15 documents on bilateral cooperation were signed.

The joint communique will give a new direction to the two nations' efforts to establish new relations, he said.

Gorbachev, for his part, said the two countries are taking the first step into the new relationship.

The Soviet leader singled out from the 15 documents Japan's pledge to cooperate with his "perestroyka" reforms and to aid victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

He said he would like to extend his thanks to the people and Government of Japan for their "kind attitude" in these areas.

Briefing reporters on the six rounds of summit talks that led to the conclusion of the communique, a Foreign Ministry official said Japan regards the specific reference to the four northern islands "as a step forward."

He noted that it was the first time that the Soviet Union had acknowledged in writing the existence of a territorial dispute over the islands.

The last time a top Moscow leader admitted the existence of the territorial dispute was in 1973, when then Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka drew an oral acknowledgement to that effect from the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, the official said.

The Soviet commitment to reduce troop levels on the islands, however, was a setback, as Kaifu had called for a total pullout from the islands, the official said.

The language on the territorial dispute in the joint communique also appeared closer to the position expressed by Gorbachev, who told Kaifu that he recognizes the existence of a territorial dispute and will continue to negotiate on the matter.

Japan's basic position was to press for Soviet recognition of sovereignty over the islands, the official said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Kaifu urged Gorbachev to reconfirm a pledge Moscow made in 1956 to return the two smaller islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group—following the conclusion of a peace treaty.

However, the Kremlin leader rejected the demand, citing strong opposition to such a commitment inside the Soviet Union, the sources said.

The 1956 joint declaration in which the Soviet Union promised to return the two smaller islands was ratified by the Soviet parliament but unilaterally renounced by Moscow in 1960 after Japan renewed its security treaty with the United States.

He said the two leaders discussed economic cooperation between the countries only in general, and no specific figure on potential Japanese aid was mentioned.

Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh took the occasion of the signing ceremony to hand over to Japan a list of Japanese prisoners of war who died while in Soviet detention after World War II.

"We hope that such a tragedy will never happen again," Gorbachev said. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Remarks on Ties at News Conference

OW1804172191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1651 GMT 189 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday expressed "satisfaction" with his Japan trip and pledged a "radical improvement" in bilateral ties which he said have so far been "abnormal."

Gorbachev was speaking at a press conference at the Japan National Press Club that opened well after midnight, nine hours later than originally planned due to three unscheduled extra sessions of face-to-face talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu until Thursday night on the deadlocked territorial issue.

"I am satisfied with the work I've done in Tokyo. We made a joint communique and signed other documents. They were big achievements," Gorbachev said in Russian through an interpreter.

He said he put aside tough domestic issues in the Soviet Union for a while to come to Tokyo, adding both sides should from now make their agreements concrete.

"A breakthrough should be made in bilateral ties and I have gained confidence through the three days of summit talks that we are heading in such a direction."

Gorbachev, who hurried to the press meeting from the ceremony at the Akasaka State Guesthouse to sign 15 cooperation documents and the joint communique, said Soviet-Japanese relations before the summit meetings, even after he started perestroyka in 1985, were "abnormal."

But this has been put in the past, he said.

The Kremlin chief, the first Soviet or Russian leader to visit Japan, said the "gives and takes" over conclusion of a peace treaty occupied "80 percent" of the six rounds of summit talks that lasted between 12-14 hours, he said. He joked they may be listed in the Guiness Book of Records.

"We did not escape any sharp questions, we never escaped matters by obscure words, and we did not evade any sensitive questions like territorial demarcation."

The Japan-Soviet joint communique, released shortly before the press conference, stipulated the two sides negotiated over the islands of Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu, and the Habomais, and called for their future demilitarization and easier access for Japanese.

It became the first ever bilateral diplomatic paper to name all the islands Tokyo demands be returned, although it never suggests how to solve the dispute. The Red Army seized the islands days after Japan's World War II surrender in August 1945.

Gorbachev also touched on the overall situation in the Pacific region, noting Moscow has been forging new relations with China, India, South Korea, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Amid such movements there was no doubt Soviet-Japanese relations appeared anachronistic and abnormal. We have proved in the past 40 years that we can do without each other [as received] and that was extraordinary when the world was reviewing the cold war era and making new developments."

Gorbachev, Takeshita Attend Party 18 Apr

OW1804145291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at a reception Thursday evening that the world is demanding an improvement in Japan-Soviet relations.

As acting host of the party for Gorbachev, attended by some 2,500 people drawn from politics, business, the arts, and sport, Takeshita in his welcoming speech said he hopes trust and cooperation will be built between Tokyo and Moscow.

The party, held in a Tokyo hotel, was originally organized by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who is leader of a major faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who was unable to attend because of a long illness.

At the evening reception, the Soviet leader awarded film director Akira Kurosawa and Japanese cosmonauts Ryoko Kikuchi and Toyohiro Akiyama with the Order of People's Friendship.

Baseball home run hitter Sadaharu Oh gave a work of Japanese art to a broadly smiling Gorbachev, while pianist Hiroko Nakamura presented his wife Raisa with a traditional Japanese Kimono and a belt, or "obi."

Gorbachev earlier attended a cocktail party at the same hotel where 150 Japanese political and financial people gathered to chat with him.

Gorbachev Meets Buddhist Organization Leader

OW1804131591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday expressed a desire to return to Japan for a second and perhaps less hectic visit, saying he still wants to see the famed Mt. Fuji.

"This time I am so busy that unfortunately I won't be able to visit Mt. Fuji. I'll leave this wish for the future," Gorbachev was quoted as telling Daisaku Ikeda, leader of the Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist organization.

Gorbachev met with Ikeda for 15 minutes at the Akasaka State Guesthouse after holding two extra rounds of talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu over the two countries' territorial dispute.

The extra sessions forced the Soviet leader to cancel plans to visit a bulldozer factory and Tokyo's new skyscraper city hall, as well as a trip to Shinjuku Imperial Garden to see the cherry blossoms.

Gorbachev told Ikeda that deepening mutual trust and friendship are a "prerequisite for resolving all problems," a Soka Gakkai spokesman said.

Asked by Ikeda if he would like to complete a peace treaty with Japan while he is in office, Gorbachev replied "that is why I came to Japan and we are holding summit talks. This is the main topic that is being widely discussed," the spokesman said.

Japan refuses to sign a peace treaty without a resolution to the 46-year-old dispute over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II.

Ikeda met with Gorbachev in Moscow last July, at which time the Kremlin chief said he hoped to visit Japan when the cherry blossoms were in bloom.

Katushev, Volskiy Visit Factory for Gorbachev

OW1804092691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0909 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Two Soviet officials visited a Japanese bulldozer factory Thursday after President Mikhail Gorbachev and First Lady Raisa had to cancel their scheduled visit due to extra rounds of talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev and Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Science and Industrial Union, made a tour of Komatsu Ltd.'s Kawasaki factory, observing construction machines such as 120-ton dump trucks and amphibious bulldozers.

Komatsu is the world's second largest integrated maker of construction machinery. The Kawasaki factory produces 120-ton dump trucks mainly for export and a great number of them are being exported to the Soviet Union, factory officials said.

Greeted by Ryoichi Kawai, chairman of Komatsu, and Tetsuya Katada, president, Katushev conveyed a message from Gorbachev saying he regretted having had to cancel his visit.

Kawai asked Katushev to tell Gorbachev that Komatsu felt honored to have been chosen by him from among Japanese business corporations to host a visit and that they would not only continue to sell construction machines to the Soviet Union but would also like to enter into technological cooperation.

After seeing the production line, Volskiy said he thought the organization of the factory was very efficient and that he would like to build such factories in the Soviet Union.

Officials of the factory said they were told Thursday morning that the Gorbachevs were unable to come.

Government To Provide Food for USSR as Promised

OW1804062191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The Japanese Government will soon begin sending 500 million yen worth of promised food aid to the Soviet Union, which had been delayed because of political turmoil in the country, government officials said Thursday.

The aid includes 2,000 tons of flour and 50 tons of powdered milk, together with canned foods and instant noodles. It will be shipped to the Soviet Far East city of Khabarovsk to be distributed by the Soviet Government, the officials said.

The government last December approved a plan to provide the Soviet Union with 500 million yen worth each of food and medical goods in emergency aid.

The delivery was delayed by technical problems, and also because of Moscow's January military crackdown in the Baltic republics, including Lithuania, they said.

The resumption of Soviet aid by the European Community (EC) in March encouraged Tokyo to follow suit, they said.

In respect to a separate 100 million dollar emergency loan by the Export-Import Bank of Japan to the Soviet Government, also approved in December, government sources said Soviet officials had presented a list of goods consisting of eight items, including powdered milk and palm oil, to be purchased using the money.

Signing of Siberian Forestry Accord Postponed

OW1804135691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—An official signing of a Japan-Soviet joint project to develop forestry resources in Siberia has been put off as both sides are still apart on the details, a business committee said Thursday.

The Japan-Soviet business cooperation committee said the negotiations over the bilateral project, the fourth of its kind, will continue and that the signing will take place around the summer.

The move put a damper on widespread hopes that the Siberia project will provide a tonic to languid bilateral economic cooperation, stalled by Japan's concern over a fund shortage in the Soviet Union and the political and economic turmoil there. There had been expectations that both countries would sign a pact on the project during Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's four-day stay in Japan until Friday.

Under the planned five-year Siberia development project, scheduled to start in 1992, a Japanese joint venture formed by 10 trading houses and machinery makers will supply bulldozers and other machinery to the Soviet Union.

In return, the Japanese firm will receive 6 million cubic meters of raw wood and 400,000 cubic meters of wood products over the five years.

Two-way trade through the project is estimated at 1-1.4 billion dollars.

Other Issues

Social Democrats Want Compromise on Minesweepers

OW1704185591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) officials on Wednesday agreed that the Diet should hammer out comprehensive countermeasures on the issue of dispatching minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, SDP sources said.

SDP Chairwoman Takako Doi, General Secretary Tsuruo Yamaguchi and Shun Oide, chairman of the Diet Administration Committee, confirmed the party's basic understanding in a meeting that the SDP's policy on the issue should include a Diet resolution apologizing for Japan's role in World War II, the sources said.

The top opposition party will discuss the issue at a party meeting on Thursday.

Besides a Diet resolution apologizing for World War II, the SDP countermeasures include a Japanese Government presentation of disarmament plans, such as a cut in defense spending, the sources said.

It will also include measures against the destruction of oil wells caused by the Gulf war and against mines placed during the war, while urging greater involvement by the United Nations in environmental preservation.

The move came in consideration of the feelings of other Asian countries regarding the recent Japanese move toward dispatching minesweepers and because it is also the 50th year since the Pearl Harbor attack, the sources said.

One top SDP official said that even before discussing the Diet resolution on dispatching the minesweepers, it is a problem that the national power's highest legislature body has not yet made an official apololgy for World War II.

On the issue of sending the minesweepers, the SDP officials confirmed their position that they will not agree to a looser interpretation of the Self-Defense Forces Law.

Okinawa Presents 8-Point Request on U.S. Bases

OW1704043191 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 17 Apr 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] On 16 April, Okinawa's Lieutenant Governor Nakaima made an inspection tour of the Camp Hansen training area (in Kin Town), Yomitan auxiliary airfield (in Yomitan village) and the urban combat training facility (in Onna Village). The tour represents a strong stand by the Ota prefectural administration, which lists the resolution of the military bases issue as top priority.

The lieutenant governor saw, at great length, the site where artillery firing exercises are conducted over Prefectural Highway 104 and other training areas where safety is at issue, and heard the actual state of affairs from local municipal chiefs.

After the tour, Lieutnent Governor Nakaima called on U.S. Consul General in Naha Lawrence Farrar and Yoshimi Teramura, director of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB]. He made an unusual request to them, "We hope you will make further efforts to help resolve the bases issue."

The presence of extensive military bases constitutes a factor hampering the development of Okinawa Prefecture and, taking into consideration the opinion of the people of Okinawa, calling for their total return, the Okinawa Prefectural Government regards the promotion of their readjustment and reduction as its most important task. On the basis of this perception, Lieutentnant Governor Nakaima presented an eight-point request.

In response, DFAB Director Teramura said, "From the position of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, we want to make further efforts to resolve the bases issue."

The request presented by the prefectural government follows:

1) Further readjustment and reduction of U.S. military facilities and areas. Special measures in returning bases, so that no losses are caused to landlords; 2) the removal of the urban combat training facility; 3) the discontinuation of live firing exercises at Camp Hansen and Camp Schwab; 4) the prevention of aircraft noise and other incidents and accidents deriving from the bases; 5) the relocation of the parachute dropping site from Yomitan auxiliary airfield; 6) a halt to the construction of trenches in Camp Hansen; 7) a halt to the submarine cable laying work between Nagasaki and Okinawa; and, 8) the enforcement of discipline among U.S. service personnel.

Taiwan Vice Foreign Minister Meets Politicians

OW1604185591 Taipei CNA in English 1545 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 (CNA)—Republic of China [ROC] Vice Foreign Minister Chang Hsiao-sen met with Japanese friends from the political field in Tokyo Tuesday to exchange views on relations between the two countries.

Chang, who arrived in Tokyo from Taipei Monday, was accompanied by Chiang Hsiao-wu, representative in Japan of the Association of East Asian Relations (AEAR), during the talks with the Japanese political figures. He will stay in Japan for several days before leaving for South Korea.

A spokesman for the AEAR's Tokyo office said it's not covenient to disclose the names of the Japanese friends with whom Chang had held talks as the ROC and Japan have no diplomatic relations. AEAR represents the ROC's interests in Japan.

Insurance Company To Open Office in Beijing

OW1704101591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Sumitomo Life Insurance Co. said Wednesday it has received permission from the Chinese Government to open a representative office in Beijing later this month.

Sumitomo is the second Japanese financial institution, after Chuo Trust and Banking Co., to open a Beijing office since the Chinese military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in 1989.

Officials said the new office will try to gather information on the economic, industrial, and investment activities in China. Japanese companies recently have been offering more loans and credits to China. Sumitomo has provided 4.1 billion yen in four yen-based loans to China since 1982.

House Passes 'Controversial' Land Tax Bill

OW1804111691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A new bill aimed at introducing a controversial tax on land ownership was passed during an afternoon session of the House of Representatives on Thursday, marking a step toward the planned overhaul of Japan's land policy.

The bill, approved by the lower house's finance committee earlier in the day, is expected to be enacted on April 24 after getting the go-ahead from the House of Councillors.

The government's bill provides for the introduction of a 0.2 percent tax on land owners, named "land value tax," in 1992. The rate will be raised to 0.3 percent in 1993, after which no revisions can be made until 1996. The new levy will be applied to properties worth 1 billion yen or more, except for those owned by individuals and small to medium-scale companies. Small businesses, defined as those with capital of 100 million yen or less, will pay only if they have land worth more than 1.5 billion yen.

Land assessed at or below 30,000 yen a square meter will be exempt, as will public property and private property used for public purposes such as hospitals and schools. Watered down by the low rate and a number of exemptions, the new tax is believed to affect less than 50,000 individual and corporate taxpayers, and will bring in less than 150 billion yen a year.

The conservative proposal has drawn harsh criticism from opposition parties, which contended the government "paid too much concern to the interests of big enterprises" in drafting the bill. Partly to respond to such criticism, the lower house attached an appendix to the bill which calls for review of the planned tax after three years and a reduction of income tax in return.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry is busy preparing for the launch of the new tax, the first national tax on landholders since the end of World War II, on January 1, 1992, ministry sources said. The ministry plans an increase in the number of tax collectors to speed up the gathering of information about land holders, a task expected to cost about 2 billion yen.

Association To Tighten Rules on OTC Trading

OW1804090891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The Securities Dealers Association of Japan plans to strengthen its regulatory powers to prevent unfair transactions in stocks traded on the over-the-counter [OTC] market, association officials said Thursday.

The move is in line with a proposed revision of the Securities and Exchange Law which would make OTC trading subject to tight regulations against insider trading and price manipulation, they said. The association, which groups most Japanese securities companies, supervises the OTC market.

According to the officials, measures being considered include reviewing the rules of the association to give it authority to direct OTC-traded companies to disclose corporate information and making it possible to monitor unfair stock deals by means of computers. The association has so far asked OTC-traded firms for corporate disclosure via member companies serving as lead underwriters for them when major changes such as mergers occur in their businesses.

In order to protect investors, the association will also draft rules on suspension of trading and removal of stocks from listing on the OTC market in line with those stipulated by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the officials said.

Bond Trading Decreases for 3d Straight Year

OW1804091191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The Japan Securities Dealers Association said Thursday its overall public and corporate bond trading in fiscal 1990 totaled 1,376.84 trillion yen, down 16.2 percent from the previous fiscal year. It was the third straight annual drop.

The association attributed the decline to weak bond prices at the beginning of the fiscal year due mainly to tight credit conditions. Also undermining the bond market was the fact that bonds have become less profitable than previously because interest rates on short-term financial instruments exceeded those on bonds, the association added.

Foreign investors were active net buyers of bonds worth a record high of 6.79 trillion yen. Individual investors, who had mostly shifted from stock investment to bond investment, became net buyers of bonds worth a record high of 3.54 trillion yen.

NEC Markets New Workstations, Server Machine

OW1804062091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—NEC Corp. has launched a new family of Unix Engineering Workstations (EWS) and a server machine to meet the demand for network computing, company officials said Thursday.

The three new versions of NEC's EWS 4800 machines use Motorola's 68040 microprocessor and boast the highest processing speed for a Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC) at 20 million instructions per second (MIPS), the officials said. Shipments of the workstations will begin late this month and the machines are priced from 900,000 yen to 6 million yen each.

Unix is a popular multitasking and multinetworking operating system favored by scientists and engineers and gaining popularity with businesses. CISC, pronounced "sisk," has large sets of instructions to perform operations compared with RISC, which requires only a small number of instructions.

The NEC Super Server UP4800/520 uses MIPS computer's Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) R3000 microprocessor and can process 33 million instructions per second.

The new server integrates programs, data, and printers into a Local Area Network (LAN) which can be shared by computer users. It is also equipped with on-line transaction processing. Shipments of the server are scheduled for late September 1991 and it will be sold at a price of 14.5 million yen each, the officials said.

NEC has also established a new research institute in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, they said. The NEC Kansai Electronics Research Laboratory is capitalized at 5 billion yen and will focus on research and development of microelectronics devices, the officials said.

Wireless Data Communications Service To Begin

OW1804113291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Tandem Computers Japan Ltd. and Ines Co. will begin offering in May a digital wireless data communications service to computer users in Tokyo, company officials said Thursday.

Officials said the wireless information network for data communications (WIND) service will be ideal for financial institutions, insurance companies, distributors, and other businesses which require immediate up-to-date information to perform efficiently.

WIND will enable users of computers which have wireless transmission capabilities to talk with a host computer via a teleterminal network offered by Japan City Media in Tokyo. The radio signal from the teleterminal is then converted and sent over telephone wire to a tandem fault-tolerant computer and delivers the data to the host computer and vice versa.

Last month, NEC Corp. announced the first notebook computer which can send and receive data from a host computer via radio waves. The service will initially be offered in the 23 districts of Tokyo and then expand to other areas, including Osaka, Nagoya, and Kobe, officials said.

Ines Corp. is a Japanese communications network and software developer headquartered in Tokyo. Tandem Computers Japan is the wholly owned subsidiary of U.S.-based Tandem Computers Inc. of Cupertino, California.

North Korea

Military Spokesman on South's 'War Fever'

SK1804155191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Our People's Army will sharply watch the aggressive moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and always keep itself in full readiness against an unexpected situation.

If the South Korean puppets recklessly and thoughtlessly open fire, bloated with war fever, we will return a thousand-fold fire to the provocateurs.

This was declared by a spokesman of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK in a statement today.

Branding the recent outburst of the South Korean "defense minister" as an open military provocation to wreck peace on the Korean peninsula and attack us by force of arms, the statement continues:

This outburst of the South Korean puppet defense minister for invading the North is a very dangerous war signal which stripped bare the war policy of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group and their ambition for "unification by prevailing over communism" and an unpardonable anti-national criminal act for reducing the motherland to heaps of ashes and impose a holocaust of war on the heads of fellow countrymen.

The Ministry of People's Armed Forces sternly denounces the outburst of the South Korean military boss, branding it as an anti-peace, anti-reunification criminal act trampling underfoot the ardent desire and purpose of our nation for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification and bringing the dark clouds of war.

The open threat of the South Korean military boss to make a surprise attack on us fully revealed the intention to carry into practice now the scenario of attack on the North already worked out by the U.S. bellicose elements.

According to materials, the U.S. forces command in South Korea defined a "preventive forestalling attack" as the best method when working out a "report" on measures against "atomic reactor facilities" of the North and, already last year, the South Korean chief executive instructed the then "defense minister" to take measures to this effect.

It is well worth noting that recently a high-ranking officer of the U.S. forces command in South Korea unhesitatingly blared that the North will be regarded as a target of attack following Iraq, stating that one of the important reasons why the United States started the war with Iraq was to destroy atomic reactor facilities of the country.

It has also been dragged into the light of day that the South Korean military has conducted negotiations with a western country from last year in a bid to introduce Tornado fighter planes capable of escaping A.A. [antiaircraft] radars by a ultra-low-altitude flight as warplanes for surprise attack on the North in accordance with the United States' aggressive "strategy toward the North."

Facts patently prove that the blast of the South Korean military boss against the North was by no means a casual slip of the tongue but a revelation of the scrupulously prearranged plan of surprise attack on the North.

We can clearly confirm once again through the outburst of the puppet defense minister why the South Korean authorities have so far stubbornly objected to our repeated proposal to adopt a North-South nonaggression declaration and wherein lies the reason they staged the large-scale nuclear war maneuvers in league with outside forces this year, too, knowing only too clearly that it would lead the North-South dialogue to a rupture.

"Peace" and "unification" on the lips of the South Korean authorities are nothing but a camouflage for covering up their policy of war.

The Korean People's Army is an inconquerable defender of our socialist country and a peaceloving army with a mission to prevent war.

We have no intention to provoke others, but we will never allow anyone dare to provoke us.

South Visitor Comments on Pyongyang Sites

*SK1704151791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1501 GMT 17 Apr 91*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Kim Hwi-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party," on a visit to the northern half of Korea, went round various places of Pyongyang.

After visiting the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace, he said:

Through my visit to the palace, I felt again that the great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il are devoting their all to children. Although I have toured many countries of the world, I have never seen such a country which built so big and excellent a palace for children. Children are, indeed, the "king" of the country in the North.

After making a round of the patriotic martyrs' cemetery, he said President Kim Il-song is not only a great leader but also the father of the 70 million people who is possessed of noble sense of obligations and warm love of people.

Kim Hwi-won was shown round the recreation ground of Mt. Taesong on April 16.

After seeing round the Kwangbop Temple, he said:

Valuable historical relics showing the long cultural traditions of our nation have been rehabilitated status quo ante and preserved wonderfully. This fact alone tells that the great leader of the nation is in the North.

He spent a good time at the fun fair.

South Professor Discusses 'Impressions' of North

*SK1304105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) Friday invited Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon provincial district committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" [DLP] and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party", to a talk.

Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of Hanminjon, warmly welcomed Kim Hui-won who is visiting the northern half of Korea with a single desire to get the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and achieve national reunification, and highly estimated his righteous activities.

Kim Hui-won gave his impressions of the North as follows:

In the South I thought that the state can exist with the person in power, territory and people, but in the North, I realized that if a legitimate, genuine state is to be built, there should be an outstanding leader and his successor and a correct guiding idea and political system.

Referring to the reunification question, he said:

The neo-colonialist rule of the United States over South Korea is craftier and crueller than the colonial rule of Japan.

The U.S. troops and nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and the U.S. colonial rule be terminated at an early date.

The chief executive in South Korea is begging for permanent presence of the U.S. forces, paying a colossal amount of fund for their upkeep and seeking a permanent division of the country through "unilateral entry of South Korea into the United Nations."

With nothing, however, can the ardent desire of the people in the North and the South for reunification be dampened.

I think that if the 40 million fellow countrymen in the South fight in unity, they can make the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdraw from there and achieve the reunification of the country.

He expressed sympathy with Hanminjon's spirit of anti-U.S. independence and reunification and proposed to join hands and cooperate with each other in the future.

Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of Hanminjon, and its members assured him that they would help and cooperate with him in his struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and the independent reunification of the coumtry.

The Pyongyang mission of Hanminjon arranged a dinner for Kim Hui-won.

Paper Views South as 'Nuclear Forward Base'

SK1804110391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0957 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. ruling quarters openly oppose the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as they constantly pursue the heinous design to resort to nuclear blackmail against the northern half of Korea and unleash a nuclear war, by keeping hold on South Korea as a nuclear forward base.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a signed article hitting at the utterances of Solomon, a U.S. State Department senior official, that "the United States is opposed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" in order to maintain "nuclear deterrent."

The article says:

It is an urgent demand of the times today to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The DPRK made the proposal to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and has striven to this end.

But the U.S. imperialists are building up nuclear bases in South Korea to carry into practice their shameless nuclear war design. They declared South Korea "the frontline of the U.S. strategy" and "the first-class region among the targets of the use of nuclear arms" and massively introduced and deployed nuclear weapons there.

Those nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea account for 55 per cent of the U.S. nuclear arms in the Asia-Pacific region.

In continuing to ship ever greater quantities of nuclear means into South Korea, the U.S. imperialists seek to start a nuclear war against the North and other socialist countries in Asia with that part of Korea as a stronghold.

The open utterances of the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters that "it is the United States' policy to use nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula in case of emergency" and "a nuclear attack must be made on the north of Korea", suggest that it is an unchangeable intention and strategic aim of the U.S. imperialists to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

They think that they can easily establish their domination over Asia if they keep hold on the Korean peninsula, a military strategic vantage contiguous to the Asian continent, and also regard South Korea as a most favourable place for the use of nuclear weapons. Hence their persistent attempt to provoke a nuclear war in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists, to justify these maneuverings, are advertizing even the ridiculous fiction of the North's "nuclear programme."

If a nuclear attack is made, it will immediately spread into a worldwide thermonuclear war.

The U.S. imperialists must stop their nuclear war preparations in Korea and withdraw all their nuclear bases and weapons from South Korea.

SKNDF Demands Dismissal of South's Minister

SK1804120891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1106 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in a statement on April 14 demanded that Yi Chong-ku, "defence minister" of South Korea, be called to task and dismissed at once and No Tae-u openly apologize for Yi's blast and immediately step down, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

The statement condemns the remarks of the "defence minister" threatening to surprise "atomic reactor facilities" of the North as a downright challenge to all the fellow countrymen who are waging a nationwide struggle with an indomitable will to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and greet the first year of reunification in the '90s at any cost, and as a most undisguised belligerent outburst against the peaceful north.

It is a direct outcome of the anti-peace, anti-national aggressive doctrine of the United States, not a "slip of the tongue" or a personal expression of the "defence minister," and it fully reveals the belligerent nature of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military clique, says the statement.

It is already nobody's secret that the U.S. imperialists who had been putting pressure on the North over the nuclear inspection problem have worked out even an operational plan to throw commando units to surprise its facilities and made several attempts for an air raid on "nuclear facilities" of the North during the "Team Spirit-91" nuclear war maneuvers, it says, and goes on:

The North-South relations are now rushing headlong to a touch-and-go phase of war due to the reckless outbursts of the pro-American No Tae-u military group.

If the rash acts of the U.S. imperialists and the war-thirsty No group led to the outbreak of a war, it would inevitably spread to an allout war and then our nation would suffer untold disasters and the cause of peace of mankind face a grave challenge.

Should they light the train of war in this land again, they would be burned to ashes in the flames they kindled themselves.

Hanminjon earnestly calls upon all the people who really desire peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula to rise in unity and wage a fiercer anti-war struggle for peace, anti-U.S., anti-fascist patriotic struggle.

Chongnyon on 'Outburst' by South's Minister

SK1804064091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 18 Apr 91

["Chongnyon Issues Statement Denouncing Outburst of South Korean Ruling Group"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Tokyo April 17 (KNS-KCNA)—The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) made public a statement on April 17 denouncing the bellicose outburst of the South Korean puppet minister of defence on April 12 threatening "to throw commandoes into the North to surprise and destroy its atomic reactor facilities".

The bellicose outburst of the South Korean military boss is not only an intolerable challenge to the desire and will of the whole nation to achieve national reunification in the 90s without fail but a declaration of openly giving up dialogue and negating peaceful reunification and a declaration of war against the DPRK, the statement said, and went on:

The warlike outburst of the No Tae-u ruling group clearly shows its flunkeyist treacherous intention to put a brake on the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations at any cost through the "nuclear inspection" problem, pursue a mendicant diplomacy in reliance on a big country to bring to a success South Korea's "unilateral entry into the United Nations" and thus realize a permanent division.

The South Korean puppets are running amuck in their war racket today when an atmosphere of reconciliation, unity and reunification has become more prevalent than ever before on a nationwide scale with the formation of the Korea unified table tennis team, the first of its kind in the sports field of the North and the South, as an occasion this is an intolerable criminal act of going against the trend of the times and throwing a wet blanket over the ardent desire for national reconciliation and reunification. All this reveals to the whole world that the No Tae-u ruling group is an anti-national criminal group which seeks only "unification by prevailing over communism", not hesitating to plunge the whole nation into the holocaust of a nuclear war.

The South Korean puppet clique's dangerous attempts to provoke a war are based on the plan and script arranged by the United States.

We will never tolerate the South Koran authorities' scheme to plunge the whole nation into the holocaust of a nuclear war again at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, going against the desire of all the 70 million fellow countrymen who ardently aspire after peace and peaceful reunification.

U.S.-South Alleged 'Cover Up' Reported

SK1804115191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—With nothing can the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities cover up their intention to start a war against the North, which is getting more undisguised with each passing day, say NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today. The South Korean puppet defence minister's bellicose utterances threatening to "surprise and destroy the North's atomic reactor facilities by hurling commando units" are a grave military provocation against us who have done everything possible for peace and reunification of the country and an open declaration of a war, the article says, and continues:

His bellicose outburst revealed the anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification, bellicose nature of the No Tae-u ruling group that is clean indifferent to the future of the nation and seeks only to "unify the country by prevailing over communism" with the force of arms.

The No ruling group, in face of bitter resentment at home and abroad caused by the provocative, belligerent blast, is now trying to save the situation, stating that what he said was cancelled and he made a slip of tongue. But it cannot cover up the already-revealed intention to make a surprise attack on us.

The South Korean bellicose element's provocative blast against the North was not a mistake made by a person but an unpardonable antinational outburst that reflected the policy of the U.S. imperialists and the No ruling group toward the North and their intention of war against it.

The war provocation scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are concentrically illustrated by their "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises in South Korea.

Their manoeuvres are all offensive operations against the North.

The facts offer irrefutable proof that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have staged the "Team Spirit" for the purpose of unleashing a war against the North.

Very ill-boding are the acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities who are openly stringing out provocative outbursts against the North, while staging the "Team Spirit" joint military execises, a test nuclear war against the DPRK.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are war criminals who forced a war upon our people in the 1950's. Nobody can say when the warmaniacs hell bent on the provocation of a new war will start a war of aggression, while staging manoeuvres.

If they ignite another war of aggression in Korea, they will taste a bitter cup of defeat.

Meeting Marks 19 Apr 'Uprising' in South

SK1804124091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang meeting marking the 31st anniversary of the April 19 uprising of the south Korean people was held today.

The April popular uprising in South Korea in 1960 was a massive anti-U.S., anti-fascist, democratic resistance to put an end to the colonial tyrannic rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, establish national sovereignty and achieve genuine freedom and democracy. ,

In his report, Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, stressed that the April popular uprising demonstrated all over the world the heroic stamina of the South Korean students and people and clearly showed that the popular masses are able to defeat any enemy and surely win a brilliant victory if they pool their strength and rise up in the struggle against the oppressors.

Noting that the present situation of South Korea is more serious and critical than 31 years ago when the brave men of April turned out to the streets of resistance, the reporter pointed out that the U.S. imperialists are persistently laying obstacle in the way of peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

The present "Democratic Liberal Party regime" of South Korea is a military fascist regime which is pursuing a war policy under the control of the U.S. imperialists, he said, and continued:

Some time ago, the South Korean puppet defence minister officially declared that a surprise attack on our nuclear setups is being planned. This is, in fact, an open proclamation of war and a sinister military provocation against us. His utterance is not his individual misstatement but vividly reflects the policy toward the North of Korea and dangerous military moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are dead set against the signing of a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States and the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South in a bid to keep the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, the main obstacles of national reunification, stationed in South Korea and convert South Korea into a hotbed of a new war for the realization of their aggressive ambition. Never should it go unnoticed that the "two Koreas" plot of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group is being stepped up at a very grave stage.

The South Korean authorities' attempt to "enter the United Nations separately", seeking to legalize and fix the division of the country internationally, is a challenge to the nation who aspires after reunification and a betrayal to the partner of the dialogue.

In order to drive out the U.S. imperialist aggressors and liquidate their colonial rule, the South Korean students and people should wage a vigorous anti-U.S. struggle of various forms in all parts of South Korea, holding higher the banner of anti-U.S. and independence so that the U.S. imperialist aggressors may not stay in South Korea any longer.

To get the U.S. forces withdrawn from South Korea and put an end to their colonial rule is a precondition for independence, democracy and reunification. The United States should give up its dangerous war policy based on the stand of strength, conclude a peace agreement with us at an early date and withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

CPRF Chairman: South's Defendants Innocent

SK1804124791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF), met with home and foreign reporters here today. He claimed the innocence of Cho Yong-sul, Yi Hae-hak and Cho Song-u, the South side's delegates who were arrested and put on trial by the authorities for participating in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks, and strongly demanded that the "court" immediately stop the unjustifiable trial and release them without delay.

It is a brigandish act for the South Korean "court" to brand the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) which was finalized at the Berlin tripartite talks as an "anti-state organization," as an "enemy-benefitting organization" and criminalize the defendants by invoking the notorious "National Security Law," he said, and went on:

Pomminnyon is an organization of the reunification movement. It is not an organization intended to oppose anyone or overthrow any system.

The joint declaration adopted at the tripartite talks says, "We urge the authorities to part with the stance of division and confrontation and join Pomminnyon and thus set out together on the historical road of reunification."

If Pomminnyon is regarded as an "enemy-benefitting organization" this means that Pomminnyon is an organization framed up by the North and serving for its interests and that others are playing into the hands of it.

Within Pomminnyon there can be no command-submission relationship in which somebody makes a tool of others and the latter is made a tool and one is placed above others and the latter is placed below one and somebody orders and others obey.

The course of the formation of Pomminnyon makes it clear that it is not an organization initiated and founded by the North.

Refuting the charge of the South Korean "court" that the "defendants inspired and praised" the North and "sympathized" with the North's line at the tripartite talks as a far-fetched argument, Chon Kum-chol said he did not mention a word critical of the present "government" of South Korea while making contacts with the South side's delegates in Berlin, and they did not either make any statement inspiring and praising the chuche idea or the socialist system of the North.

He declared that in most cases the North side accepted proposals of the South and overseas sides at the talks and the immediate action program of Pomminnyon adopted at the talks including the question of convening the second pan-national rally and the question of convening an international conference for peace and denuclearization in Asia and the Korean peninsula was mostly proposed by the South and overseas sides.

Regarding our Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland as a heretical "anti-state organization," the South Korean "court" is taking issue with the contact and "meeting of the defendants" with the vice-chairman of this organization, he said, condemning this as a preposterous jargon.

A patriotic organization in charge of the reunification issue, the CPRF has enjoyed high prestige and trust of the people, he said, and stressed:

If this authoritative organizationt of the reunification movement should be branded as an "anti-state organization," why are the South Korean authorities not criminalized for their dialogue with this committee and how should the "Unification Board" of South Korea which is said to be in charge of the reunification issue be branded?

If the delegates to the Berlin tripartite talks had made an application for contact with North, would the South Korean authorities have permitted it? As it was crystal clear that the authorities would not "permit" their application for contact with the North, they publicly proposed holding overseas the trialogue on the reunification issue and participated in it and made public all of the proceedings of the talks.

This being the fact, it is brigandish and unjustifiable for the South Korean authorities to charge the delegates with "violation of the law in force" for the reason that they did not get "permission" while refusing to "permit" contact with the North.

Chon Kum-chol refuted the false argument of the South Korean "court" that the participants in the Berlin tripartite talks "escaped" from South Korea at the "instructions" of the North and were involved in a "political operation."

He said:

The South side's promotion headquarters proposed to hold contact in Berlin with the delegates of the North and overseas for the purpose of forming a pan-national body for reunification movement and dispatched its delegates. Then, how can the South Korean court distort the fact by alleging that the delegates of the South side "escaped" at our "instructions"?

At the Berlin tripartite talks, we discussed the matter of finally forming Pomminnyon, an umbrella organization of the reunification movement, and the matter of expanding and developing the reunification movement and nothing else.

I never instructed or recommended this or that as regards the movement for independence and democracy in South Korea nor did the delegates of the South side ask us to give them an "assignment" or an advice.

Chon Kum-chol branded the "National Security Law" criminalizing the southern delegates as a leftover of the old era of confrontation which regards the North as "enemy state" and the fellow countrymen in the North as "enemy."

It is with a view to dampening the nation's burning desire for reunification by force and bridging over the deepening crisis of their rule with the fascist "security-oriented politics" that the South Korean authorities and "court" try to penalize the "defendants" at any cost by invoking the "National Security Law" contradictory to reason and logic, stressed Chon Kum-chol.

Report on SPA First-Day Afternoon Session

SK1804063991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] From now on we will report the news on the afternoon sitting of the first day of the Second Session of the Ninth DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]. At the sitting, discussions of the first agenda item, "On the Result of the Fulfillment of the DPRK State Budget for 1990 and the State Budget for 1991," continued. At the sitting, deputies Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the SPA Budget Committee, delivered the SPA Budget Committee's report on the result of the fulfillment of the state budget for 1990 and the state budget for 1991. Discussions were made at the sitting.

First, Deputy Choe Yong-nim participated in discussions.

[Begin Choe Yong-nim recording] Comrade deputies: Last year, by correctly executing the state budget under the wise leadership of the great leader and our party, the Government of the Republic financially guaranteed the work of implementing various policies to further strengthen the country's might and to promote the well-being of the people in a smooth manner.

Recognizing that this year's state budget, as well, has been correctly compiled so as not only to vigorously accelerate socialist construction in conformity with the demands of the prevailing situation and our developing revolution by thoroughly implementing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address of this year and the party's lines and policies, but also to make great progress in the struggle for enhancing the superiority of our socialism and for epochally promoting the people's material and cultural life, I fully support and consent to the state budget for 1991 submitted to the SPA for deliberation. [applause]

Last year, under the party's leadership our people waged a vigorous struggle with firm faith in the justness of the socialist cause and its victory and, thus, performed brilliant exploits in socialist construction, and the great leader set forth a most superior economic management principle which accords with the essential demands of the socialist society and established the unitary management system of the state. As a result, our national economy achieved a constant development on a solid foundation.

Last year, while rapidly developing the leading sectors of the national economy in conformity with the demands of the rule of the developing socialist economy the Government of the Republic concentrated investments on the key industry sector. As a result of this, production constantly increased, and the construction of major plants for expanded reproduction was successfully carried out.

Last year, the Government of the Republic appropriated a large portion of the state budget for the construction of production facilities, and actively pushed ahead with the construction of major plants to strengthen chuche industries, thus further deepening the self-reliant foundation of our industries and providing more favorable conditions which make it possible to vigorously accelerate socialist construction. According to the party's consistent policy of giving priority to the extraction industry and the power industry, last year the Government of the Republic invested 108 percent of the previous year's investment and, thus, the development of coal mines and mines and the construction of power plants were actively pushed ahead. As a result, the material and technological foundation of the Komdok mine complex and the Musan mine complex was further strengthened; the construction of many coal mines, mines, and power plants were successfully carried out; numerous medium and small-size hydraulic power plants were built throughout the country; and, thus, the fuel, raw material, and power bases of the country were more firmly built.

Last year the Government of the Republic, by concentrating great efforts on the communications and transportation sector, completed the construction of the Paektu youth line between Iwon and (Mokha) and the electrification of the rail line of (Taekon)-Pongchang-(Hanmyong), completed the construction of a new railway between (Chongdan) and (Paektol), and successfully pushed ahead with the construction of the expressways between Pyongyang and Kaesong and between Pyongyang and Huichon. As a result, the overall cargo transport capability has been increased by a great deal.

Last year, in order to smoothly ensure the increasing demand for iron and steel materials in national economy, the Government of the Republic effectively used the existing production capabilities for iron and steel materials and directed great strength to technological innovations and the expansion project of metallurgical plants.

To implement the party's policy for constantly directing strength to upgrading the people's living standards, the Government of the Republic last year directed a great amount of funds to agriculture, light industry, and housing construction.

Last year, our agricultural workers and supporters including the soldiers of the People's Army demonstrated lofty revolutionary zeal, mass heroism and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle. They timely linked the Taedong River, Yusong River, Yalu River and (Taeryong) River with each other as one great irrigation net, and built the 2,000-ri waterway for all the rice paddies and fields in the granary of the west district to make them overflow with irrigation water.

In order to realize the party's idea to completely resolve the question of housing, we built modern houses for 30,000 households in Pyongyang and tens of thousands of houses in cities and farms. With increased production of light industry products, our people can enjoy a better life without envying any other people.

Our revolutionary intellectuals and working class who grew in the benevolent bosom of the party last year put forward 60,000-odd valuable inventions, plans of technological innovations, plans for (?design) and rationalization plans by devotedly struggling with a lofty pride and sense of responsibility as the masters of socialist construction. Thus, they made great contributions in the development of science and technology and to accelerating the nation's economic construction.

All successes attained in socialist construction last year are the result of the wise leadership of the great leader, who expounded outstanding policy for more vigorously accelerating the grand socialist march movement by upholding the revolutionary banner of chuche and who led the revolution and construction only along the single road of victory, and of our party. Such successes are a precious fruition of heroic struggle of all the people who are firmly united with the party and the leader as one. [applause]

Our practical struggle, which is advancing by upholding the banner of socialism—the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea—and following the leadership of the party, proved that socialism in our country, which our people ourselves chose and are building in our own way with our own strength, is a most superior socialism with great vitality. This struggle also showed that the self-reliant socialist national economy, which our people built on the principle of self-reliance, is very solid and powerful. This struggle proved that only when we firmly adhere to the principle of socialist economic management and operate economy in our own way, we can a build socialist and communist society without wavering even slightly no matter what wind may blow.

We should deservedly cherish the lofty and revolutionary national pride in having the people who are firmly united with the party, the most superior chuche-oriented socialist system, and solid self-reliant national economy. Thus, we should struggle by dedicating everything to prosperity and development of the socialist fatherland. [end recording]

The speaker pointed out that by giving priority to preceding domains of national economy, and by effectively using the existing economic foundation, this year we should normalize the production at a high level and defend and protect the Taean work system in order to further enhance the material and cultural life of the people in compliance with the demand of socialism. We should thoroughly and successfully execute the state budget and all economic tasks raised in socialist construction by more thoroughly implementing our party's policy for unified and detailed planning.

Next, deputy Hyon Yo-chin [as heard] participated in discussions.

[Begin Hyon recording] Comrade deputies: Last year, too, under the wise leadership of the great leader and the party, a large amount of the state budget was earmarked for the coal industry sector and, accordingly, the material and technological foundations of coal mines were more firmly laid. Thus, coal mines were strengthened and developed as the reliable fuel and raw material base of chuche-oriented industries. Last year, a large amount of state funds were earmarked for our Sunchon District Coal Mine Complex, and was effectively utilized. As a result, its coal production process was further modernized and its coal production capability was greatly increased. Thus, the complex greatly contributed to promoting the people's living standards.

Last year, we firmly gave priority to geological survey work and excavation work, and built new pits and more collieries in order to increase coal production. To give priority to tunneling and to attain more coal fields we had all technicians and coal miners join a prize campaign for technological innovation and carried out organizational and political work among them. As a result, many suggestions for technological innovations were presented. Therefore, our Sunchon District Coal Mine Complex and the planning staff of coal mines in the complex had earnest and thorough consultations and discussions to select the most reasonable suggestions, and waged the struggle to introduce them to production.

To thoroughly implement the party's policy of firmly giving prioirty to tunneling we saw to it that responsible functionaries of the complex and coal mines in the complex take charge of one blind each, and give guidance to it in a responsible manner and, at the same time, organized a complex-wide high-speed tunneling contest in the newly developing Hanyong Coal Mine in an effort to vigorously wage a high-speed tunneling movement in the complex. During the high-speed tunneling contest, working together with tunneling miners on the spot we studied and introduced reasonable labor organization and work method and planned and coordinated equipment supply work. Thus, we increased the tunneling speed by 1.5 times over the past period and led all blinds in the complex to introduce the acquired experiences. As a result, more than 60 collieries have been built in recent years and, thus, we have attained great success in increasing coal production.

As collieries increased we modernized hauling equipment and accelerated the work of strengthening and perfecting loading facilities and coal yards. As a result, the annual coal production output of our complex increased to several million tons in recent years, and the material and technological foundation of the coal mines in our complex has been firmly deepened so as to smoothly meet the increasing coal demands of the national economy.

Last year, we correctly enforced the independent economic accounting system and improved enterprise management in conformity with the demands of the Taean work system set forth by the great leader. As a result, we attained great success in enhancing the vitality and might of our complex. Upholding the decision of the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth party Central Committee on strengthening the struggle for production increase and conservation, we also planned and coordinated the organizational work to mobilize and utilize inner reserves to the maximum.

The first pit and the haulage drift of our Sinchang Coal Mine held a complex-wide exhibition for mobilizing inner reserves. The exhibition showed materials and mining tools acquired and mobilized through a mass campaign, and introduced various inner reserve mobilization methods, the names of the companies and coal miners that actually used the methods, and the evaluation results that these companies and persons had received. Thus, we opened the exhibition room to functionaries of plants and enterprises under our complex to generalize experiences among them. We had such work prove its worth in the complex-wide inner reserve mobilization movement. Last year, 13,500 small mining tools of 400 different kinds were mobilized in Sinchang Coal Mine alone.

In this way, last year, our Sunchon District Coal Mine Complex vigorously pushed ahead with the struggle to increase coal production capability and to assiduously manage the nation's economy. As a result, the complex attained the proud success of lowering the prime coast of coal production by 3.3 percent and overfulfilling the plan for payment into state treasure by 16.3 percent. All the successes we registered last year are the brilliant fruition of the leadership of the great leader and our party that, defining the coal industry as a leading process of the national economy, have led the industry sector to smoothly meet the country's demands for coal by increasing state investments in this sector every year. They are also clear evidence of the correctness and solidness of the state budget of our country. [applause]

Comrade deputies: Today we are faced with the honorable and rewarding task of demonstrating further the might of our country's socialist system by producing more coal, by vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction, and thus smoothly guaranteeing the demands for coal. [end Hyon recording]

The speaker continued to talk about his firm determination to unconditionally fulfill this year's coal production quota, which has been increased substantially compared to last year, and to actively contribute to increasing the revenues of the state budget by introducing large, modern, and high-speed mining facilities and the comprehensive mechanization of pit work through the reasonable utilization of the funds earmarked to the complex, and by making great innovations in coal production. He will do this while cherishing in his heart the slogan, "What the party decides, we will do" as his firm faith.

Next, deputy Kim Pyong-tok participated in discussions. He pointed to the fact that in upholding the decision of the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee, the working class of the Chollima Steel Complex not only has increased steel production by waging the struggle for production increase and conservation, but has also effected a new innovation in steel billet production. He then continued:

[Begin Kim recording] These proud successes that we have attained are precisely thanks to the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who have given great trust and might and infinite love and concern to our working class of Kangson. [applause] The great leader, who visited our steel works even prior to visiting his home of Mangyongdae right after national liberation, again visited our steel works one week after the cease-fire [of the Korean war] and encouraged us to build the work with our own strength, our own technology, and our own facilities and materials. In 1957 when the country faced its worst situation, the great leader [words indistinct] smashed the maneuvers of factionalists and flunkeyists and wisely led us [words indistinct]

The great leader, who always has been with us, the working class of Kangson, and who has led us to the single road of innovation and glory, last year went so far as to worry about a worker in our enterprise who had bad health. He gave the benevolent care of establishing measures for medical care for the worker, as well as for all the workers of the enterprise.

The dear comrade leader, who has brilliantly realized the lofty will of the great leader, has been deeply interested in the struggle of the working class of Kangson and its living standard and has taken all benevolent measures for the working class.

Truly, the proud and victorious road the Kangson working class trod was the rewarding road of true revolutionaries firmly upholding the socialist fatherland with steel pillars with the [word indistinct] rolling machine under the benevolent care of the great leader and the dear leader comrade and to entrust its fate entirely to the leader of the revolution. They were proud days of history of breaking through all difficulties and trials following the party and the leader, and vigorously demonstrating the might of the wholehearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses.

Comrade deputies: Today we, the metal industrial sector, have the honorable task of bringing forth innovations in steel production, upholding the militant task set forth by the great leader in his New Year's address, and effectively utilizing the existing economic base.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: This year we should give definite priority to mining industry, power industry, and railway transport and put major emphasis on the development of the metal industry so that we may bring about innovations in these sectors.

This significant year when we mark the 35th anniversary of the Chollima movement put forth by the great leader, we should bring forth an upswing in steel production, again upholding the slogan of loyalty "What the party decides, we will do," with the spirit of making victorious progress in the revolution overcoming difficulties, with the spirit of Chollima, and the spirit of Kangson, so that we will overfulfill this year's people's economic plan and state budgetary revenue plan without fail.

We should arm ourselves firmly with the great chuche idea, further solidify the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses, and thoroughly embody the party's slogan of living in our own ways so that we can repel the antirevolutionary offensive of the imperialists and the reactionaries with the chuche revolutionary offensive and adhere to, and add luster to, the socialism of our country to the end.

We firmly pledge that we will correctly establish a revolutionary outlook on the masses, go deep among the producing masses, share their joy and sorrow, and lead the masses through personal example so as to produce more steel so that we may repay the high trust and expectations of the great leader and our party with loyalty, and resolutely protect and defend the party and the leader with the practical struggle. [applause] [end recording]

Speaking next was deputy Chong Yon-hwa.

[Begin Chong Yon-hwa recording] Comrade deputies: I am the eldest daughter-in-law of the 14 tractor drivers of the Yonghwa section of the Yongyong County general farm to whom the great leader sent his significant personal letter last February and highly commended as a typical example of the home of mechanization, revolutionization, and intellectualization of rural areas. Standing at this rostrum with the highest glory and happiness of receiving the fatherly leader which filled our home and the entire country with deep emotion and gratitude and with endless gratitude for the motherly party that tenderly looks after all our people, I fully support and approve of the settlement of the execution of the state budget for last year submitted for deliberation, and the state budget for this year. [applause]

As widely known to the world, during the days of struggle for implementing our party's policy on technological revolution of the rural areas, our home has grown to be an exemplary home of the working class of rural areas and the forerunner of the mechanization home movement under the deep interest and tender care of the great leader and our party.

Although I am a woman with children to look after, I was determined to effloresce the respected and beloved leader's grand idea of rural construction devoting my life to it. I worked hard with the help of my husband and became a tractor driver. Then my brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and all other members of the family became tractor drivers. Nine members of our family became tractor drivers, and working together in the same ri, they devoted themselves to the implementation of the technological revolution of rural areas.

The great leader was very pleased that nine members of our family were working as tractor drivers, and summoned me and my husband to the national agricultural meeting held in January 1978. Although we found nothing in our life of which to be proud, he listened to our simple life story, and expressing his great satisfaction, he warmly said that the home of this unit is a home of mechanization that stands at the head of the technological revolution of rural areas, and an exemplary home of the working class of rural areas, and that because there are such heroes our republic is prosperous and strong.

On the closing day of the meeting, the great leader said that the fact that nine members of a family worked as tractor drivers was a great pride for our Korean people and that he was satisfied with it, and gave us a programmatic teaching on vigorously conducting a home mechanization movement to make a general example of this all over the country.

Pondering how we could repay this great grace of the fatherly leader even a little, we worked hard for the last 10 years. Above all, we bore in mind the party's slogan "The cultivated fields of the farm are my cultivated fields," overfulfilled every year the task of plowing paddies and dry fields by 6 percent while precisely following the demands of the chuche agricultural method. We turned land of some 60 chongbo [one chongbo equals about 10,000 square meters] into standard cultivated fields making necessary rearrangements, and found new land of six chongbo, thereby increasing the area of arable land.

Also, the tractor drivers, who are the working class whom the party sent to the rural areas, bore deep in mind the high trust of the fatherly leader who said that they were the revolutionaries relieving the farmers of hard and difficult labor, and devised and introduced some ten kinds of farm machines, such as a machine for making rice seedling beds, a machine for making corn humus pots, and a humus mixer. By getting tractors to do nearly all the farm work, the tractor drivers relieved the farmers of their hard labor as best they could, and saved some 80,000 [word indistinct] of labor by increasing the labor productivity.

We helped each other and encouraged each other not merely as [word indistinct] but as revolutionary comrades and vigorously pushed ahead the process of revolutionizing and intellectualizing the entire home. In this process, thanks to the great consideration given by the respected and beloved leader and the dear leader comrade, our home has now grown to be a big home of 14 tractor drivers. We did not expect that this would please the fatherly leader so much.

Receiving the report that our home grew to be a big family of 14 tractor drivers, the great leader recalled with deep emotion what he had seen 13 years before, and made a benevolent remark about our home. On 27 February, he sent us several tractors as gifts with his precious personal letter to our home. He gave all members of our home not only the honor of high state citations, but saw to it that our home was publicized all over the country.

The great leader said in his letter that because there is a rural area working class like us, who are endlessly loyal to the party and the revolution, our party is mighty, our fatherland is great, and the development of the rural economy of the socialism of our country is firmly ensured, giving his personal thanks to us the 14 tractor drivers of our home. [applause]

Could there be trust higher than this and love greater than this in the world? We are so grateful to the great leader for his taking into his bosom of the sun the children of [word indistinct] who had been forsaken like common stones on a roadside in the old days with the sorrow of a people deprived of their country, bringing them up to be the [word indistinct], the labor heroes, and tractor drivers, and publicizing us as a mechanized home to the entire world. Moreover, he sent us his personal letter and gave us the highest glory and happiness. How can we fully express this love and grace with words?

This love which we cannot repay for tens of thousands of years, this grace which we cannot describe in tens of thousands of books—these can be enjoyed only by our people who uphold the great leader and the dear leader comrade as their national father. This is the proud reality that is in bloom in our country in which the leader, the party, and the popular masses formed an epochal family of one sociopolitical living body. [applause]

He also expressed his resolve to take to heart the benevolent love and noble will of the great leader; to reliably defend the socialist rural fortress; to mechanize, revolutionize, and intellectualize the rural areas generation after generation; to further brighten his honor of being a model in his family; and to thoroughly implement the party's policy on the rural technological revolution, thus positively contributing to bringing new turns in agricultural production.

Following this, Deputy Han Kwang-nim participated in the discussions. He pointed out that, by vigorously waging a struggle to implement the plan on the local budget system in hearty response to the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, last year, Kaesong increased the state budget revenues to 107.3 percent of what was originally planned and that the local budget revenues were also increased to 1.2 times those of the previous year. He went on to say:

[Begin Han recording] We gave priority to guaranteeing necessary resources and materials within the city to modernize production processes in local industrial plants, to make them more self-reliant, and to normalize their production on a high level. Our leading officials took the lead to mobilize the masses. In this way, we built new resource bases of 140 chongbo in the city last year, thus expanding the total area of the resource bases to 1,658 chongbo. In maintaining machines in resource bases, we further improved the efficiency of specialized resource bases and improved [words indistinct] of local industrial plants and enterprises. In this way, we significantly increased the production of resources.

To develop the local economy in the city, we invested 30 million won in capital construction and more efficiently spent this money. As a result, the [words indistinct] was increased to two times, and the instances of the renovation of facilities were increased to three times. Local industrial plants were appropriately managed based upon [word indistinct] plants and bases for basic chemical products. As a result, the number of people's consumer goods was increased from 3,000 to approximately 4,000. And, we earned 20 million more and included it in the state budget revenues.

We developed local trade and supplied resources and materials necessary for local industries to normalize production and to improve the people's lives, and vigorously carried out the work of increasing state budget revenues. We also vigorously carried out the work of increasing state budget revenues by developing Kaesong to a city of tourism and satisfactorily guaranteeing services for tourists. In this way, the city's budget reached the level of the exemplary counties last year, and a firm basis was provided for all the counties in the city to reach the level of the exemplary counties in implementing the local budget system.

A struggle was vigorously waged to thoroughly implement the party's local budget system. As a result, Kaesong underwent a cataclysmic change. [applause]

Only two two-storied houses had existed in Kaesong, a commercial city, before the liberation. Today, against the background of the old houses of the Koryo era, high-storied houses and numerous other modern buildings are being built along Tongil Street, and beautiful [word indistinct] were built. In this way, Kaesong is being turned into a light-industry city equipped with local industrial plants.

These changes that have taken place in Kaesong are unthinkable apart from the warm love of the father leader [suryongnim] and the dear (?comrade leader), who do us who are living on the front line area warm favors, and lead us hand in hand with the feelings of (?fathers) [words indistinct].

Through our experiences, we have come to firmly believe that the local budget system is the most scientific and most vital plan that can endlessly improve the people's lives, and that can rapidly accelerate the overall socialist construction of the country.

Dear comrade deputies: We are assigned the heavy task of vigorously accelerating socialist construction according to the current reality and the demand of our developing revolution, thus more highly displaying the superiority of our socialism. In hearty response to the programmatic task which the great leader presented in his New Year's speech, we will rise up like one in a grand march movement to create the speed of the nineties to most efficiently utilize the existing economic foundation, thus normalizing production, and to vigorously carry out service work, thus fulfilling the people's economic plan and the state budget revenue plan ahead of schedule. We will consolidate the local industrial basis, reasonably renovate technological processes, and sufficiently supply resources and materials. In this way, we will operate every plant at full capacity and make reforms in producing people's consumer goods, thus satisfactorily guaranteeing the people's increasing demands for goods.

To thoroughly carry out the party's policy of vigorously carrying out service work, we will modernize service networks, preserve historical remains well, and carry out service work on a large scale, thus more satisfactorily meeting the people's demands for services and further increasing budget revenues.

We will conduct the movement to win the title of exemplary counties in implementing the local budget system by all the counties in the city, and guarantee revenues and expenses at a high level, thus earning more money to give to the state. We will also make sure that all the counties inside the city will join the ranks of exemplary counties in implementing the local budget system by 1993, when we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the presentation of the local budget system.

I express my firm resolve to thoroughly implement the plan on the local budget system, the creative socialist budget system of our own style by more highly displaying the spirit of serving the people, the revolutionary spirit, the party spirit, the working class spirit, and people-minded character. In this way, we will rapidly accelerate economic and cultural construction in the city, epochally improve the people's lives, and turn Kaesong into the people's paradise convenient to live in. [applause] [end recording]

Following this, Deputy Kim Hae-yong participated in the discussions. He pointed out that, under the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, last year, the Chongjin Steel Works of the Kim Chaek Steel Complex renovated steel-making processes according to our style and expanded their capacity, which has provided a firm basis for more rapidly developing the steel-making industry. He went on to say:

[Begin Kim recording] When we were building [words indistinct] production processes, we realized how just and powerful is our party's policy of living according to our style, and have come to more firmly believe that if we work in hearty response to the militant slogan—let us live according to our style—a slogan presented by the dear comrade leader, we will be able to fully develop the (?chuche) industry of our style, which relies on our technology and resources. [applause]

Comrade deputies: This year, our metallurgical industrial sector has the honor of continuously giving priority to developing the metallurgical industry by upholding the New Year's address by the great leader in order to bring new upsurges. As pointed out in the report [budget report by Yun Ki-chong], the Government of the Republic, again this year, foresees the investment of a large portion of the state budget in the metallurgical industry.

We will more reasonably and efficiently spend the state fund allocated to our steel works thanks to the considerations of the great leader and our party in an effort to unconditionally overfulfill the people's economic plan assigned to the steel works by the indicators.

Among other things, we will well maintain and timely repair production facilities at [words indistinct], which are newly operational, and will operate them in strict accordance with the technological and [word indistinct] regulations. In this way, we will normalize production on a high level to produce more steel.

By vigorously conducting a movement to produce more and to save more, we will thoroughly carry out the party's policy of saving approximately 100,000 tons of coal a year and reducing industrial production costs by more than 2 percent by systematically reducing the standard of coal consumption per unit of product.

Upholding the instruction which the great leader recently gave to North Hamgyong Province and the tasks which were presented in the congratulatory letter of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee delivered to our steel works, we will continuously carry out the expansion work of the [words indistinct] production base.

With a firm resolve to do whatever the party decides, based upon the achievements and experiences in the construction of [words indistinct], we will finish the construction of [words indistinct] and will successively accelerate the construction of the [word indistinct] base.

The revolutionary tasks assigned to us this year are not at all easy. However, we will tenaciously uphold the party and the leader by cherishing such invariable loyalty and filial devotion as that of members of the Second Party Cell, the Fifth Bureau of the Korean Central News Agency and of poets of the Korean Literary Production. Thus, we will firmly arm ourselves with the great leader's revolutionary ideas.

This year, when we mark the 30th anniversary of creation of the Taean work system by the great leader, we will thoroughly implement the mass line in economic management under the collective guidance of the party committee and will strengthen the (?organizational) discipline, discipline in labor administration and production discipline. We will carry out economic organizational work by giving priority to technological development and based on the principle of promoting economic efficiency and the quality of products. Thus, we will accomplish daily, monthly and quarterly plans assigned the steel plant without fail.

By constantly carrying out the research work for further developing our own type of chuche-oriented [word indistinct], this year we will introduce 450-odd technological innovation plans into production and will enhance the quality of products.

With conviction in the justness of the chuche cause and in victory, we will always maintain the posture of alertness and mobilization. With heightened vigilance against anti-Republic and antisocialism maneuvers of the imperialists and their stooges, we will tenaciously accelerate the building of our own style of socialism by upholding the revolutionary banner of chuche without wavering even slightly no matter what wind may blow from any direction.

We will firmly adhere to a chuche-oriented metallurgical development line of the great leader and our party, and will thoroughly implement this line. I now firmly resolve to meet great trust and expectations by the party and the leader. [applause] [end recording]

Next, deputy Cho Tae-hui participated in the discussion.

[Begin Cho recording] Comrade deputies, the Government of the Republic, which regards the promotion of people's welfare as the supreme principle in its activities, last year directed a large portion of the state budget to building houses and producing furniture, and thus realized the firm foundation for further upgrading the people's living standard.

The Hamhung Wood Furniture Plant, where I work, last year effectively used the state budget and satisfactorily ensured at a high level the production of furniture and furnishings for various major facilities including houses on Tongil Street. The plant overfulfilled the plan of total industrial output by 1 percent and the plan of state budgetary revenue by 12 percent, thus attaining great success.

The great leader and the party center, who always pay attention to providing the people with rich and civilized living conditions, made every effort so that a great number of modern houses are built in cities and farms and excellent furniture is provided there.

The great leader, who personally visited our plant 30 years ago, had a concrete understanding of the practical situation of the plant and taught that material and technological foundation be firmly laid and workers' technical level and skill be upgraded for increasing furniture production. Thus, he gave programmatic teachings which we should firmly adhere to in producing and ensuring good-quality furniture.

By taking the great leader's on-the-spot guidance as the guideline in our work and life, we directed great strength to realizing the firm material and technological foundation of the plant, and to modernizing technical tools and equipment.

By putting forward a profound plan to introduce modern [word indistinct] production method, which will enable us to produce better-quality and diversified types of furniture with less materials, getting rid of outdated [word indistinct] production methods which we applied over a long time, we persistently carried out the struggle to build a production base capable of producing 300,000-ton square meters of (?plywood) annually.

Thoroughly mingling with the employees, we explained to them that firmly laying the material and technological foundation and constantly improving technical equipment, are indeed responsible and valuable works for realizing the chuche-orientation, modernization and science-orientation of national economy—our party's strategic line for socialist economic construction—and for increasing the state budgetary revenue by making more money even while providing the people with good-quality furniture. Thus, we vigorously carried out the struggle to build the (?plywood) production base by properly ensuring the materials.

During the days of struggle when the guiding functionaries themselves undertook most difficult tasks and led other employees, we faced a number of difficult works.

However, each time I recalled the endless love and great trust extended to us from the fatherly leader, I mustered up all my courage and might. Thus, we excellently built the (?plywood) production base in just a few months, which it had been said would take more than a year, and manufactured major production facilities with our own strength including the (?cutting and press) machine. Thus, we began to produce furniture in [word indistinct] manner.

As the result of efforts to turn the frame-type [koljosik] production method into a modern [word indistinct] production system, the production of furniture increased by 1.5 times and the (?speed of process) of products increased by 1.6 times. Thus, we rendered several million won in profits to the state by lowering the cost of products by 1.7 percent.

With increased production of furniture, the more various chemical materials including lacquer, thinner and adhesives, and supplementary materials were required. Thus, we put forward a goal of producing and ensuring by ourselves all the chemical materials and supplementary materials required for furniture production.

Through practical activities, we came to more keenly realize the revolutionary truth that there is nothing which we cannot accomplish if we so decide. By demonstrating the revolutionary spirit for self-reliance and arduous struggle, together with the slogan of faith that what the party decides, we will do, we built four buildings of chemical (?materials) and manufactured scores of production facilities for chemical products. Thus, we further consolidated the material and technological foundation.

As the great leader and dear comrade leader taught, we sought another way of increasing furniture production and of promoting its quality in the work of making the employees establish the chuche-oriented outlook on labor and of enhancing the level of their technique and skill. We paid great attention to this work.

We stressed that only when the employees establish the firm chuche-oriented outlook on labor, can they play the role of masters in production and produce good-quality furniture, thus contributing to enhancing the people's living standard. We carried out indoctrination work in various forms and methods so that the workers have the honor and sense of responsibility as producers of furniture.

In particular, in order for our employees to familiarize themselves with the skill of producing furniture, we assigned skillful workers with long experience to each workshop, and encouraged family members to work in the same plant, same workshop and same outpost over generations.

As a result of this, three generations including father, son and even grandson are working in the same plant and same workshop, and the number of such generations is increasing. The households in which more than five family members are working in the same place number 71, and the households in which more than two family members are working in the same place reached 80 percent of total households of employees.

Thus, under the slogan, "all for one, one for all," the communist outlook on life of helping and leading each other has been more firmly established and the level of technique and skill has been rapidly enhanced. Last year, the degree of employees' skill was upgraded by 0.4 point in average, and technological innovation movement was carried out as a mass movement. As a result, on any day of the week [hanjuilui haronun], the employees could produce more and better furniture even while conserving the materials.

Last year, we fulfilled the furniture production plan in terms of quality and quantity by lowering the cost by 4 percent even without the 20 percent of raw material logs which we were to receive from the state. Thus, we had a great honor of receiving thanks from the party center. [applause] [end recording]

The speaker said that this year, when we mark the 30th anniversary of creation of the great Taean work system, the economic management work should be properly carried out so that the collective guidance of the party committee will be strengthened and economic efficiency and quality of products will be enhanced. Thus, more good-quality and diversified furniture should be produced to supply to the people.

Next, deputy Kim Sun-ae participated in the discussion.

She said that last year the Chonchon daily necessities production cooperative overfulfilled its assigned economic plan, export plan, and plan for payment into state treasury by producing daily necessities of good quality in greater quantities and that this shows the correctness, justness, and vitality of our party's policy of making our people's living more affluent and vigorous by developing local industry in conformity with regional characteristics. Then she continued:

[Begin Kim Sun-ae recording] Last year, too, upholding and following the party's policy of developing local industry, relying on local raw material sources, we, who have overfulfilled our assinged annual quota of the national economic plan by the indicators for the past 32 years, expanded the variety and quantity of people's consumer goods and enhanced their quality by actively attaining and mobilizing local raw materials and inner reserves, and by vigorously waging the struggle to effectively utilize them. Thus, we significantly increased the income of the cooperative. In this way, we have been able to further increase our production capability and to produce more daily necessities by enhancing the creativeness and positiveness of the producing masses, by actively attaining and mobilizing local raw material sources and inner reserves, and, thus, by effectively utilizing them to the maximum. As a result our products have won great popularity not only among our people, but also in overseas markets.

Thus, our cooperative, though not a large one, has been able to actively contribute to meeting the people's demands for daily necessities and to increasing the income of the state by firmly adhering to, and vigorously implementing, our party's correct and superior policy of developing local industry, while relying completely on local raw material sources. All of these successes of our cooperative are the brilliant fruition of the wise leadership and benevolent love of the great leader and of our party. [applause]

The hearts of the functionaries and workers of our cooperative who have accepted and embraced the great trust and warm love of the fatherly leader and the party center, are burning with the single-hearted loyalty to give joy and satisfaction to the party by producing better quality daily necessities in greater quantities.

Comrade deputies: This year we are faced with the honorable task of furher promoting the standard of our people's living by thoroughly implementing the party's policy of carrying out the revolution in light industry, upholding and following the militant tasks set forth by the great leader in his New Year address this year, and, thus, by epochally increasing the production of various kinds of people's consumer goods, including cloth. This year, as well, we will attain and mobilize more local raw material sources and inner reserves and increase production by more effectively utilizing them. Thus, we will complete this year's national economic plan by 10 October ahead of schedule, overfulfill it by 130 percent by the end of the year, and significantly overfulfill the plan for payment into the state treasury. Along with this, we will vigorously wage the struggle to enhance the quality of products and, thus, produce and supply various kinds of daily necessities in greater quantities. We will also increase the production of export goods and, thus, will actively contribute to promoting the [word indistinct] people's living standard and the budget of the country.

While actively increasing the production of daily necessities we will complete the expansion project of [word indistinct] with a floor space of 4,500 square meters within this year and will further modernize its production and technical process. Thus, we will increase the production of daily necessities to four times the present level, beginning next year. More than 80 percent of the eployees of our cooperative are women. But, we will accomplish the revolutionary duty assigned to us without fail, keeping in mind that doing so constitutes loyalty to the party and the leader.

As a functionary who has been responsible for the enterprise management of the cooperative, I will strengthen planning discipline, labor administrative discipline, and production discipline. At the same time, we will plan and carry out economic organizational work under the principle of giving priority to technological development, and to enhancing the economic effectiveness of products and their quality. Keeping in mind the great trust of the party and always mingling with the producing masses, I will vigorously inspire them to implement the party's policy of carrying out the revolution in light industry, and to produce more good quality daily necessities of various kinds. Thus, I will give greater joy and satisfaction to the great leader and the dear comrade leader who have made efforts to provide our people with a more affluent and civilized life. [applause] [end recording]

This has been the news of the afternoon meeting of the first day of the second session of the Ninth SPA. The session continues.

Kim Il-song Attends Friendship Art Festival

SK1704160091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song saw joint performances of artistes of different countries who are participating in the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

When President Kim Il-song appeared in the box amid warm applause of the audience, foreign artistes presented floral baskets to him.

Seeing the performances were O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, and members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-nam, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong and other party and government officials.

The members of the Congratulatory Group of Koreans in Japan for April 15 led by Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and other delegations and visiting groups of Chongnyon and overseas Koreans also saw the performances.

The chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front was among the audience.

Visiting Cambodian President His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his entourage, foreign guests and foreign diplomatic envoys here were invited to see the performances.

The performances were given by Korean artistes and artistes from different countries and overseas Korean artistes who have come with deep respect and reverence for President Kim Il-song and best wishes for his longevity on his birthday.

At the performances which began with a chorus of "Song of General Kim Il-song", the artistes highly sang of the greatness of President Kim Il-song and the best wishes of the world revolutionary people for his long life in good health.

They also emotionally sang of the immortal exploits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and their deep respect and reverence for and trust in him.

They impressively represented the Korean people's efforts to step up socialist construction and reunify the country, united around the party and the leader with a single heart, the creative labour and worthwhile life and national customs of the peoples of different countries who have turned out in the building of a new society under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence.

The performances ended with the chorus "Good Health and Long Life to the Leader."

President Kim Il-song sent floral baskets to the artistes for their successful performances.

He met and had pictures taken with the heads of art troupes and artistes of different countries, overseas Korean artistes, the members of delegations of Chongnyon and foreign diplomatic envoys here.

Kim Il-song Visits Gem Painting Center

SK1704152891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The Korean gem painting production group of the Mansudae Art Studio is busy producing "Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu," "Kwimyonam (Demon's Face Rock) of Mt. Kumgang," "Sangwon Hermitage on Mt. Myohyang," "Children" and other works.

Yi Myong-chun, first vice-director of the Mansudae Art Studio, told KCNA that many gem paintings including these works would be exhibited at a Korean art show expected in Southeast Asian countries.

The gem painting, the first of its kind in the world, has recently been developed in Korea and it is characteristic of its colour that never changes, he stated.

The main materials of this painting are coloured gems abundant in the country.

The gem painting is a mode of art embodying diverse methods and skills on the basis of the lofty Korean painting.

Gem painting is attractive for its graceful and clear delineation.

During his recent on-site guidance of the Mansudae Art Studio, an art production centre of the nation, the great leader President Kim Il-song highly praised the vivid description of many gem paintings such as "Snow Falls," "Dove Dance," "Wisteria Flowers and Puppies" and "Pheasant."

"Dove Dance" shows a beautiful dancing girl clad in gorgeous garment.

"Wisteria Flowers and Puppies" vividly depicts wisteria flower in a garden and puppies playing under its shade.

"Pheasant" so vividly shows two pheasants idling about on the lawn in a valley covered with crimson foliage that they look as if real.

These paintings were registered as national treasures.

The technical method of the gem painting of Korea has enjoyed high appraisal internationally.

This painting received an international patent and a gold medal for its unique method of creation with coloured gems at the International Invention Exhibition held in China in 1988.

Yon Hyong-muk Attends Closing of Festival

SK1804112691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival, which opened here on April 7, closed today.

The artistes from 60 odd countries fully displayed their artistic talent and greatly contributed to the strengthening and development of cultural exchange and cooperation among nations by exchanging successes and experiences made in the creation of literature and art and cementing the ties of friendship and solidarity through the current festival stages.

The closing meeting was held at the February 8 House of Culture at which Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art who is chairman of the organizing committee for the festival, and others were present.

Foreign diplomatic envoys and embassy officials in Korea were also present.

At the meeting group prizes of the April Spring Friendship Art Festival (diplomas and cups) were awarded to art troupes which distinguished themselves in displaying the artistic talent at this festival and the festival diplomas, monetary prizes and the festival prize to individual actors and actresses and excellent stage pieces.

Letters of thanks to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted there in the name of the participants in the ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

In his closing speech Chang Chol expressed the hope that the festival participants, bearing deep in their minds the warm sentiments of friendship formed during the festival, would all actively participate in the tenth April Spring Friendship Art Festival to be held with a large attendance next year so as to keep in bloom the excellent relations and good sentiments among the artistes.

Then followed a closing performance.

Posthumous Novel on Agrarian Reform Published

SK1804152091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The Literary and Art Publishing House of Korea recently brought out a novel "Spring of Korea", a sequel of the cycle of novels "Immortal History" dealing with the period after national liberation. It is a posthumous work of Chon Se-pong which has been completed by the April 15 writing group. The novel "Spring of Korea" is set against the period from the autumn of 1945 to the spring of the next year.

It impressively depicts the wise leadership and noble traits of the great leader President Kim Il-song who victoriously led the historical agrarian reform.

It gives a profound philosophical representation of the revolutionary feats of President Kim Il-song who successfully solved the age-old desire of peasants by liquidating the feudal system of landownership which had existed for thousands of years, clarifying the profound truth, on the basis of the essence and characteristics of the agrarian reform in Korea, that the agrarian revolution in Korea was actually a history of revolution in human remoulding.

The novel also gives an emotion-packed description of the sublime communistic love of people and noble virtues of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

KCNA Review of 18 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1804055191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song saw joint performances given by foreign artistes participating in the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival and print photographs he posed for with the heads of foreign art groups and artistes, foreign diplomatic envoys here, foreign acrobats, overseas Korean artistes and the members of various delegations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) after meeting them.

Appearing in the press is a message of greetings sent by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Payty of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to Robert G. Mugabe, first secretary and president of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front and president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, on the 11th founding anniversary of the Republic.

Printed in the press are messages of greetings sent to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders on his birthday and news that congratulatory messages came to him from different organizations, organs, schools and compatriots under the influence of Chongnyon.

According to NODONG SINMUN, seminars on works of President Kim Il-song were held in foreign countries.

It is reported in the daily that the Foreign Ministry arranged a film show and a cocktail party on the 26th anniversary of President Kim Il-song's state visit to Indonesia, a meeting was held in Peru [word indistinct] venture company took place, says NODONG SINMUN.

Carried in the daily is news that the literary and art publishing house brought out the full-length novel "Spring of Korea", a part of the cycle of novels "Immortal History" written by the April 15 writing group. The novel gives an emotional depiction of the wise leadership and noble traits of President Kim Il-song who led the historical agrarian reforms to victory in the post-liberation period from autumn of 1945 to spring of the next year.

MINJU CHOSON editorially calls for thoroughly implementing the state budget for this year.

Carried in the press are a statement released by a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry denouncing the South Korean "defence minister's" bellicose utterances that they will "destroy the North's atomic reactor facilities with commando units" and a telephone message sent by Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop to his South Korean counterpart Pak Chun-kyu in this regard.

Papers inform the readers that more than 4,000 students affiliated with the "Seoul District Federation of General Students Councils" (Sochongnyon) and students under the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) staged a rally and demonstrations against the projected South Korea "visit" of the Soviet president.

Included in South Korean news of NODONG SINMUN are reports that the interim chairman of Chondaehyop vowed to struggle against No Tae-u's plot for long-term office and Chondaehyop reiterated its proposal to hold a grand reunification festival of students in the North, South and overseas.

A starting ceremony of the "international solidarity march for supporting Korea's reunification" was held in Syria, says the paper.

Papers run commentaries on the talk of the South Korean puppet prime minister about "traditionalism" and "national legitimacy" of the "regime of the Sixth Republic".

Papers report that many people demanded the resignation of the president in the Soviet Union, a film show to mark the 121st birth anniversary of V. I. Lenin and a rally of soldiers to mark the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Playa Giron battle were held in Pyongyang.

Papers observe the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

NODONG SINMUN introduces achievements in the building of a new society in Laos, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The foreign news columns of the daily include reports that the head of state of Ghana appealed to the people to prevent the destruction of forests of the country, the Philippine foreign minister touched on the question of U.S. military bases in his country, the economic situation is taking a turn for the worse in Mongolia and production is registering a decline in Bulgaria.

The paper carries an article exposing the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war preparation moves.

South Korea

Hunger Strike Staged Against Gorbachev Visit

SK1704074791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Four students of Seoul National University began a hunger strike Tuesday to protest Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's stopover in South Korea Friday.

Pak Chae-hyon, 24, a senior in astronomy, and the three other collegians are fasting in front of the administration building.

"Gorbachev's visit casts a chill over the reunification mood on the Korean peninsula since he will support President No Tae-u's policy of joining the United Nations unilaterally," they said. "We object to Gorbachev's visit to Korea because it will perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula."

Students in Cheju Oppose No-Gorbachev Talks

SK1804013991 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 17 Apr 91 P22

[Report by Cho Hon-chu and Song In-su from Cheju]

[Text] Around 1400 on 16 April approximately 500 students from Cheju University, Cheju Teachers' College, and Cheju Nurses' Junior College in Cheju Island gathered on the campus of Cheju University and held a "launching rally of the Consultation Council of the General Association of Students in Cheju District" and a "rally against No-Gorbachev summit talks." After the rallies the students staged a fierce demonstration in front of the school gate, attempting to turn out to the street.

During the rallies the students opposed the summit talks, saying that "the summit talks to be held this time are the result of the flunkeyist, mendicant diplomacy designed for separate entry into the United Nations" and that "we sternly oppose the summit talks which will be held to perpetuate the division of the North and South and to take the reins of long-term power."

The students dispersed around 1600 when 500 policemen broke into the campus, firing tear gas.

Students Protesting Gorbachev Visit Arrested

SK1704080491 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 17 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Police yesterday arrested 26 students in Seoul for staging a protest against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's planned visit to Korea later this week, a police spokesman said.

The protesters gathered near the Soviet trade office in southern Seoul and handed out leaflets denouncing President No Tae-u for engaging in "beggar's diplomacy" to obtain Soviet support for his plan to pursue membership of the United Nations.

Gorbachev, currently in Japan, is to stop at Cheju Island off the Korean peninsula's southern tip on Friday for brief talks with No on Seoul's plan to enter the U.N. and security cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region.

"The Cheju meeting will never contribute to peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. It will only adversely affect South-North dialogue," the students said in the leaflet.

Soviet Envoy Interviewed on Gorbachev Visit

SK1804120791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1147 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 18 (YONHAP)—Many people say Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea will be rich on symbolism but little of substance, but a senior Soviet diplomat says, "absolutely not."

Ambassador to Seoul Oleg Sokolov said in an exclusive interview with Yonhap News Agency, "no less important is substance. Absolutely there will be substance that will benefit both sides."

The seasoned diplomat, however, did not go further about where the substance would come out, terming the upcoming summit between Presidents No Tae-u and Gorbachev as an "open-ended discussion."

Speaking from the summit venue, Hotel Shilla Cheju, on the eve of the first visit to Korea by a top Kremlin leader, Sokolov said, "preparations are proceeding smoothly. We are in constant contact for final details."

He said the "too short" stay of President Gorbachev, as some people describe, "is not a reflection of the nature of our relations. It is solely because of the time schedule of the president. As you know, we have so many problems at home... [quotation marks as received]

"This is the third meeting between the presidents within 10 months and it testifies to the dynamic development of relations and mutual interests in peace and security in this part of the world," the ambassador said.

Asked to comment on the view that Gorbachev may be playing a "Korea card" by stopping over at Cheju on the heels of his visit to Japan, Sokolov said, "we are not playing cards. We value our relations with the Republic of Korea as we do relations with Japan."

Some Korean analysts say that the Soviets decided on Gorbachev's visit to Cheju at the last minute to disturb Japanese and to win an edge in dealing with them.

The ambassador said he could not tell if the two presidents would take up the issue of North Korea's nuclear capability during their talks, "but the Soviet position on this issue is very clear and firm.

"As one of the authors of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we adhere to the regime, of course, that pertains to the safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency. And we are not making any exception to this position," he said.

Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday affirmed that North Korea's nuclear facilities must be brought to international control and inspection by the IAEA.

Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko said on Monday his government had warned North Korea that "if it doesn't allow inspection by the IAEA, it will stop all kinds of supplies and cooperation with North Korea."

Asked if Gorbachev would make another visit to South Korea to "really" reciprocate No's official visit to Moscow, Dec. 13-16, last year, Sokolov said, "certainly this is not an end to our relations but an opening. Our relationship is young but is developing quite rapidly."

South Korean Ambassador to Moscow Kong No-myong said on Tuesday that Gorbachev could visit South Korea again in the future after the Cheju trip.

Gorbachev's Cheju visit is a "working visit" and cannot be seen as reciprocating President No's Moscow visit last December, he said.

USSR Said To Continue Oil Supply to DPRK

SK1704093691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Soviet Union continues to send North Korea oil despite an earlier decision to suspend supplies unless payment was made in hard currency, a ranking South Korean diplomatic source said Wednesday.

"Moscow had decided to demand Pyongyang pay for the oil in hard currency starting from Jan. 1 this year, but has given a moratorium on this year's 500,000 tons of crude oil due to Pyongyang's severe financial crunch," the source said on condition of anonymity.

This is construed as an attempt to ease the North's financial woes, worsened by a sharp drop in exports to the Soviet Union, he said.

In 1989, North Korea reportedly imported 2.6 million tons of crude—500,000 tons from the Soviet Union, 1.14 million tons from China, 920,000 tons from Iran and 40,000 tons from Libya.

When North Korean President Kim Il-song visited Moscow in October 1986, he asked for an increase in the supply of crude oil to 2 million tons a year from 800,000 tons.

A Foreign Ministry official said it was not known if North Korea was paying Moscow for the oil in kind or with rubles.

Soviet Spokesman: 'Time' for South's UN Entry

SK1804024291 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Interview with Vitaliy Ignatenko, Soviet presidential spokesman, by Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) correspondent Kil Chong-sop in Japan—recorded; Ignatenko speaks in Russian with Korean translation subtitles]

[Text] [Kil Chong-sop] First, thank you for sparing us time, even though you have a busy schedule. Is there any special reason for choosing the ROK to visit Cheju Island prior to North Korea?

[Ignatenko] Gorbachev's visit to the ROK this time will be a milestone in developing ROK-Soviet relations, even though it is only for a short time. But this is their third meeting. It will be very beneficial to the ROK.

[Kil] You revealed a few days ago that, in connection with North Korea's persistent refusal to accept inspection of its nuclear facilities, a firm Soviet stand was already delivered to North Korea. Would you tell me how the Soviet authorities will handle this issue in the future?

[Ignatenko] We will decide on the issue of supplying North Korea with nuclear materials while taking into consideration the ROK's position. North Korea should observe the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We worry that North Korea may refuse to observe those regulations.

[Kil] If the ROK applies for single entry into the United Nations, what position will be taken by the Soviet Union and China—two permanent members of the UN Security Council? Our concern is focused on this issue. Would you describe the Soviet position?

[Ignatenko] It is very important for the ROK to enter the United Nations, and I think it is high time for the ROK to enter the United Nations. I think that the issue of entry into the United Nations should be handled in a political rather than ideological view. This issue will surely be discussed at the ROK-Soviet summit at Cheju Island. I am not inclined to talk about President Gorbachev's intentions in advance. A final decision will be made by President Gorbachev.

[Kil] Thank you.

[Ignatenko] Thank you.

'Unconditional' Resumption of N-S Talks Urged

SK1504013291 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 12 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] On 11 April, Choe Pyong-po, spokesman of the Unification Board, issued a commentary in connection with the news conference by An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in North Korea. Spokesman Choe said that "following the unilateral postponement of the fourth North-South high-level talks, the North Korean side revealed its attitude of evading the North-South dialogue itself." He called for unconditional resumption of the dialogue. Spokesman Choe also pointed out that "the conditions for dialogue put forward by the North Korean side are part of its strategy to overthrow the South."

Chondaehyop Proposes To Hold N-S Festival

SK1804042091 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 17 Apr 91 p 19

[Text] At 1530 on 16 April, the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop), chairman: Kim Chong-sik, 24; chairman of Hanyang University Student Association), met with reporters at the student union building of Hanyang University and revealed: "We will hold a grand reunification festival of students in the North, South, and overseas for two days from 14-15 August."

On this day Chondaehyop revealed as much in an open letter to the North Korean Student Committee and to the overseas Korean youth and student organizations and said: "We will deliver this letter to the North Korean youth and students through Panmunjom on 25 April at 0900."

Chondaehyop also proposed that working-level talks of the students in the North, South, and overseas be held on 7 July at Panmunjom to discuss preparations for the festival.

Mr. Kim also urged that Gorbachev's visit to Korea slated for 19 April be canceled.

'Moderate Faction' Reportedly Exists in North

SK1804033191 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] It was learned on 16 April that the government is currently viewing two factions in North Korea: the hard-line faction that advocates defending the current regime, and the moderate faction that pursues changes such as opening up to foreign countries. It was also learned that the government plans to concentrate on promoting its policy towards the North by strengthening conditions in regards to moderate forces in North Korea.

A high-ranking government authority who deals with North-South relations said: "As a result of analyzing various information from the Soviet Union and China, and as a result of various contacts with the North such as North-South high-level talks, it was concluded that a significant number of moderates exist in North Korea." This authority also revealed that, being promoted under this fundamental viewpoint, are the policy to apply for the UN entry unilaterally; the agreement to form a single table tennis team and soccer team; and the recent direct trade of North-South rice, coal, and cement.

He stated that figures from the hardline faction consist of members of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], including An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the CPRF. He said that the moderates include former premier Yi Kun-mo, who stepped down from office after he opposed the hosting of the 1989 Pyongyang World Festival of Youth and Students and the current head delegate of the North-South high-level talks, and Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council. He also revealed that a significant number of moderates exist who urge reform and openness in the field of economy and technology. He added that the revised confederal proposal, which President Kim Il-song is expected to advance during his opening speech at the 29 April 15th Inter-Parliamentary Union in Pyongyang, is a result of these people's efforts.

South's Government Budget Compared to North's

SK1304084191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 13 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] This year's government budget and substantial military budget is more than twice that of North Korea.

According to the National Unification Board's analysis at the Second Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] on 11 April, North Korea reported that its state budget for 1991 is $17.35 billion. This amounts to 45.9 percent of the $38.11 billion which is this year's state budget for our country.

North Korea reported that 12.3 percent of its total state budget is earmarked for defense. The National Unification Board analyzed that its substantial defense budget amounts to $5.33 billion, 30 percent of its total budget. Thus, the National Unification Board says the North Korean defense budget amounts to 48.8 percent of the $10.93 billion which is this years defense budget for our country.

Kim Tae-chung Urges Ouster of Defense Minister

SK1804060991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Taejon, South Korea, April 18 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung called on the government Thursday to fire Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku for his mention of a possible commando attack on North Korean nuclear facilities.

Yi should be dismissed and the government should apologize to demonstrate clearly that it in no way supports his remarks, Kim said.

"The government should not humiliatingly excuse itself for the defense minister's remarks, but should apologize to the people for them and fire him if they are against the government's real intention," said the head of the main opposition party, the New Democratic Union.

"Only when such steps are taken, can misunderstanding over his remarks at home and abroad be erased," Kim said.

Yi reportedly told a group of Korean editors April 12 that South Korea may stage a commando raid on North Korean nuclear facilities if Pyongyang refused to let international teams inspect them. The government subsequently recanted the words, saying there was a misunderstanding.

In other comments, Kim urged the goverment to permit labor unions to take part in political activities and set the date of worker's day.

"Workers and employers both played a pivotal role in the economic development of our country, but nowadays our nation's future depends on progress in highly sophisticated scientific fields," Kim said.

Visiting the site of Taejon Expo '93, work on which has just started, he said the international exhibition should not be just a trade fair but showcase high-tech and scientific knowledge and national education for the 21st century.

IPU Delegation Head on Minister's Remarks

SK1804071891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0657 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Rep. Pak Chong-su, head of the 25-member South Korean delegation to a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in North Korea, said Thursday there was no reason for the National Assembly to repudiate controversial remarks by the defense minister and that Pyongyang had no right to link them to attendance at the IPU session.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku reportedly told a group of local editors April 12 that Seoul might stage a preemptive commando raid on North Korean nuclear facilities if Pyongyang refused to open them to international inspection.

"It is not appropriate to link the remarks of Minister Yi to Seoul's participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union session since the South Korean Government and Yi have already cleared up the remarks," said Pak, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee.

The IPU session, scheduled for Pyongyang April 29-May 5, was for lawmakers from around the world and Pyongyang was only the site of the gathering, and it was unreasonable of Pyongyang to make a quarrel using the remarks as Yi had withdrawn them, he said.

In a message Wednesday to National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, Supreme People's Assembly Chairman Yang Hyong-sop hinted the North may bar the South Korean delegation.

The chairman of the North Korean parliament demanded that the National Assembly clarify its position on Yi's remarks otherwise "(you) will have no justification to visit Pyongyang or face to sit at the same place with us."

Early Reunion of Separated Families Sought

SK1804064191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu informed North Korea by telephone Thursday that he would deliver a letter asking both South and North Korean Governments to arrange an early reunion of separated families.

The letter will be delivered Friday by a liaison official at the truce village of Panmunjom to Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly.

Pak tried to send a similar letter Feb. 13 but failed.

An estimated 10 million Koreans on either side of the border belong to separated families.

South and North Korea arranged a reunion of 50 people and the exchange of 50-member performing arts troupes in September 1985, but have never been able to agree on a second reunion.

Inter-Korean Red Cross talks have been stalled since December 1985 despite South Korea's continued calls on the North to reopen them to discuss a second exchange. The most recent appeal was on April 4.

South-U.S. Industrial Cooperation Fields Cited

SK1804004191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] The Korea-U.S. economic relationship, now centering around commercial transactions, should switch to a mid- to long-term industrial cooperative system, the Korea Institute for Economics and Technology said yesterday.

It cited the six industrial fields in which the two countries can best reciprocate with each other to be automobile, machinery, aerospace, semiconductor, computer and high-definition TV [HDTV].

In the automotive industry, for instance, Korea desperately needs key technology while America misses capable part and component suppliers, it said. Likewise, both industries can promote mutually beneficial ties on various technological levels.

Also, Korea is promoting active production facility investments in the semiconductor and HDTV areas, while the U.S. makers want overseas manufacturing bases through the transfer of their frontier technology.

In a strategic alliance to check powerful Japanese industry, the two can effectively share designing and assembly technology in an industrial division of labor, the government-financed think tank said.

The sectoral scenarios suggested by the KIET for possible bilateral cooperation in the six industries are as follows:

Automobile—Korea has to reduce undue dependency on exports and introduce key parts technology, while the United States needs markets for its finished products and smooth parts supply. Korea should first introduce technology in which it lacks a competitive edge, and import parts which it cannot localize at the present technological level, from the U.S. makers. The two can also consider establishing an industrial cooperative body among private parts makers.

Machinery—Korea should induce U.S. capital participation in machine tool and cooling equipment businesses by switching away from the OEM [original equipment manufacturing] export pattern towards an increased emphasis on to joint venture firms. It may diversify technology import sources away from Japan to the United States. Specifically, the two economics could find their biggest potential in heavy duty equipment, transportation and textile machinery.

Aerospace—Korea should start with the commercial production of aircraft and their parts under U.S. license as subcontractors either individually or in consortia.

Computer—The two can establish a vertical division of labor in technology-intensive areas, while setting up horizontal ties in production technology. Korea may invite small U.S. venture businesses for manufacturing high-quality hard discs here.

Semiconductor—The Korean makers also require foreign capital and should make brisk overseas investments to acquire essential technology. They can seek tie-ups with U.S. research institutions and universities.

HDTV—Korea's assembly and parts manufacturing capacity should unite with sophisticated U.S. technology, including designing.

U.S. Accused of Undue Exclusionary Measures

SK1804002791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] The Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) accused the United States of applying "apparently complicated" sanitary examinations and quarantine standards on Korean agricultural products to curb their inflow into the country.

Several U.S. government organizations including the Department of Agriculture have deliberately drawn up unnecessarily complicated clearance documents for agricultural imports from Korea, the state-run company said in a report on "Korea's Strategy to Expand Farm Exports to the U.S." released yesterday.

The report said Korean farm products hardly have the opportunity to carve out a market niche in the U.S. because of the various quarantine laws.

In one instance, American quarantine officers are dispatched to Korea to examine the quarantine situation in Korea before allowing Korea's export-promising products such as apples, pears and tangerines to be imported into the U.S., it said.

Of all kinds of fruits, none but pears have been permitted to be imported into the U.S. to date due to these complicated clearance procedures, the report said.

The U.S. bars imports of Korean apples and tangerines by claiming that their safety must be verified through tests before being allowed into the U.S., it said.

But KOTRA officials said the U.S. moves to bar imports of Korean farm products appear aimed at pressing Korea to open wider its agricultural markets to American produce.

Similar charges have been made by American businesses trying to ship farm products to Korea.

The report encouraged Korean farmers to cultivate export-promising crops and called for accelerating the structural reform of the Korean agricultural sector which faces a crisis due to the massive market opening.

It fingered oak mushrooms, apples, pears, tangerines, chestnuts, ginseng and floriculture as the most promising Korean farm export items.

The report urged farmers to quickly select and foster export-promising farm products and complete the structural reform to overcome the American barrier which it said was a prerequisite to exploring overseas farm markets.

Seoul, Tokyo Fail To Reach Fisheries Accord

SK1804002691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] South Korea and Japan held their first working-level fisheries talks in Seoul yesterday but failed to produce any substantial results, the Foreign Ministry announced.

Instead, they agreed to continue their talks in Tokyo in June.

The bone of contention is the renewal of a "self-regulation" agreement on fisheries in the seas off the two countries which is to expire late this year.

Japan is seeking to change the self-regulation which has been effective since 1987 while Korea insists on maintaining it.

The self-regulation was introduced in order to prevent what the Japanese claimed "illegal fisheries" by South Koreans on the seas off Japan.

Japan Plans To Open More Construction to South

SK1804061391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Japan has agreed to open its construction market wider to South Korean firms by recognizing their experience in third countries when they apply for a Japanese licence and allowing them to use Korean workers.

Japan virtually shut its construction market to Korean firms by rejecting their experience in third countries and blocking the use of foreign construction workers.

In multilateral import consultation talks in Tokyo April 8, Japan opened the way for South Korean contractors to obtain Japanese licenses and bid for projects in Japan, Korea Foreign Trade Association officials said Thursday.

The meeting also agreed to recognize Korea's exports of steel structures to third countries in four of five categories based on degree of difficulty. Delegates were from the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

The Japanese construction market is estimated at 500 billion U.S. dollars a year and participation by Korean companies will help reduce Korea's trade deficit with the island country.

Korean companies succeeded in making inroads into the Japanese construction market only last year, when 10 firms won contracts worth 300 million dollars.

Seoul, Bangkok To Raise Number of Flights

SK1804003291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The governments of Korea and Thailand agreed to increase the number of weekly regular flights between Seoul and Bangkok to 21 in November 1991 and to 23 in November 1992 from the current 17, the Transportation Ministry announced yesterday.

Winding up a three-day Korea-Thailand aviation meeting, the ministry said the two nations also agreed to permit Korean and Thai flag carriers to make two more business stops in intermediate points between Seoul and Bangkok weekly. At present, the airlines are allowed to make nine business stops weekly.

The two countries agreed to allow the airlines to fly beyond Seoul and Bangkok to other Asian cities up to 10 times weekly and to cities in the United States and Europe up to four times a week.

At present, Korean Air is conducting 14 flights a week, Asiana Airlines three flights and Thai Airways International seven services between Seoul and Bangkok.

Yi Hon-sok, director of the ministry's Civil Aviation Bureau, headed the Korean delegation in the aviation meeting, while Ruangrot Siprasoetsuk, a deputy director of aviation at the Transportation-Communication Ministry, led the Thai delegation.

With the new agreement, passenger capacity of the three airlines on the lucrative route will rise by 35 percent, the ministry said.

Finance Minister Leaves for Meeting of EBRD

SK1304070691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui left Seoul for London on Saturday to attend the inaugural meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) April 15-17.

Chong, who leads a 13-member Korean delegation, is scheduled to deliver a key-note speech April 16. Also joining the delegation are Kim Kon, governor of the Bank of Korea, Yi Hyong-ku, president of the Korea Development Bank, and Hwang Chang-ki, president of the Korea Exchange Bank.

Korea will invest 65 million European currency units (1 ecu is 1.167 U.S. dollars) in the bank, obtaining a 0.65 percent stake of the bank's capital of 10 billion ecus.

EBRD was established to help East European countries switch to market economies.

Yugoslavia Suspends Entry of Korean Products

SK1404051691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] The Yugoslav government recently suspended clearing Korean passenger cars through customs in move to restrict automobilites, textile products and electronics products imported from Korea.

Trade-Industry Ministry sources said yesterday that the Yugoslav government began suspending the entry of Korean passenger cars at ports on March 23.

The sources said this seems to be a preliminary action prior to stricter import restrictions such as import quota on automobilies and electronics goods as Korean and Japanese products have flooded the Yugoslav market for the past few years.

Domestic auto makers had projected to export 10,000 passenger cars to the Eastern European country by August this year, following exports of 8,300 units worth $56 million last year.

A ministry official predicted that passenger cars already shipped will be customs-cleared, adding that the government will seek fundamental solution on import restriction in trade negotiation with the Yugoslav government.

Ties Set Up With Marshall Islands, Micronesia

SK0704041291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea will establish diplomatic ties Friday [5 April] with the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [4 April].

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok is scheduled to sign the treaties with Jiba Kabua, foreign secretary of the Marshall Islands, and Asterio Takesy, deputy external affairs minister of Micronesia, who are now here to attend the 47th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], the Ministry said.

This will give Seoul ambassadorial relations with 148 nations.

Local Councils Begin First Session on 15 Apr

SK1504015091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's 260 local councils, their members elected for the first time in 30 years, began their four-year terms Monday by voting for chairmen and vice chairmen.

A total of 4,303 councilors took oaths of office in nationwide ceremonies held simultaneously at 10 A.M., each vowing to "carry out my duties according to the law to protect citizens' rights and improve their wellbeing."

President No Tae-u, in a congratulatory message, said that through the establishment of local councils elected by the people the nation "has now laid a sound basis for true democracy."

Local assemblies return after a 30-year hiatus. President Pak Chong-hui dissolved local governments after he seized power in a military coup. A second level of local elections is due in June to choose councils for provinces and major cities.

The nation went to the polls March 26 to elect representatives to small cities, county and ward councils. The only empty seat is in Kumi city, where both candidates withdrew before the election. Voters there will cast ballots April 30.

Monday's session was mostly ceremonial, except for the election of chairmen and vice chairmen to lead the councils for two years. On Tuesday, they decide how many days the sittings will last.

The councils will be in session 60 days a year, with a 30-day regular sitting starting every Dec. 1 to determine the budget and the agenda for the following year.

No Sends Congratulatory Messages

SK1504063091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u sent messages to 260 city, county and municipal ward councils Monday in celebration of their inauguration.

"Reopening the era of local autonomy after 30 years is a pleasure and is worthwhile for the people. We hope the councils, through activities complying with the expectations of residents, lay a sound basis for democracy," No said in the message.

"The people hope their local councils will be true representatives who pursue development of their region and the wellbeing of local residents, and the people should help their councilors."

The nation elected 4,304 councilors on March 26, and elections for provincial and large city councils are due in June.

Kim Tae-chung: Violaters Should Clean Up Water

SK1604081691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0714 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The people who contaminate South Korea's rivers and lakes should pay to clean them up, opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said Tuesday.

Water was central to economic development and made many farmers rich, but its importance as drinking water had been ignored, the head of the New Democratic Union said.

Kim, at Paldang Dam in Kangwon Province with a party fact-finding team to look into water contamination, blamed the Korea Water Resources Corp. for neglecting the 15 million residents of Seoul, who he said wanted clean tap water to go with their better standard of living.

Water should be controlled properly in the dry season, when contamination is serious, he said.

New Assistant Construction Minister Appointed

SK1704031791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The government appointed Wednesday Yi Chae-myong, former director general of the Construction Ministry's Road Bureau, to be assistant construction minister for construction and technology affairs.

Meanwhile, Chong Il-yong, 64, a former career diplomat and lawmaker, was named president of the Sejong Institute Tuesday.

Chong's major posts include ambassador to Switzerland, Belgium and France and chief of the Foreign Affairs and

National Security Institute. He was also a two-term Yujonghoe member and president of Kungmin University 1984-1988.

Deputy Premier on Plans To Control Inflation

SK1704085991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, who is also economic planning minister, Wednesday told a meeting of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party that to get a handle on inflation the government intended to freeze public utility charges until June and counter any rises in service fees by administrative fiat.

Curbing inflation is the major task for the government if it is to achieve stable economic growth. Consumer prices rose 4.9 percent in the first three months, more than half the 9.6 percent goal for the whole 12 months.

Choe warned of brownouts this summer, saying shortages were expected in the high-demand months of July and August.

Demand for electricity has risen 14 percent annually but construction of power stations has been suspended for several years, making an electricity-saving policy inevitable, he said.

The government will carry out programs to reduce budget spending and withhold non-urgent projects, estimated at 1.6 trillion won (2.2 billion U.S. dollars), and control the price of new apartments with a floor space of 20 pyong (66 square meters).

Largest Trade Deficit Recorded in First Quarter

SK1504030291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea posted its largest current account deficit ever in the first quarter, a record 3.8 billion U.S. dollars in red ink, due to sluggish exports and snowballing imports, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Monday.

Korea had exports of 15.33 billion dollars and imports of 19.79 billion dollars on a customs clearance basis in January-March, the central bank said. Service trade was 200 million dollars in deficit for the same period.

The trade deficit was 800 million dollars in March and trade in service suffered a loss of 300 million dollars.

In the second quarter, the trade deficit is likely to shrink as exports recover and imports slow, BOK officials predicted.

Electronics goods and steel will lead exports on orders from the Gulf nations for rebuilding. Machinery continues to sell well and textiles may regain buyers in the Middle East and East bloc though auto exports will slowly recover from July, when the U.S. economy rebounds from the Gulf war.

Prospects for footwear, tires and ships are hard to predict, they said.

Bank To Sign $30-Million Loan With Consortium

SK1604075791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Commercial Bank of Korea will sign a 30 million-U.S.-dollar loan in Hong Kong Wednesday with an international consortium, a bank spokesman said Tuesday.

The dollar-denominated loan, which carries an interest rate of 0.25 percent over the Libor (the London Interbank Offered Rate), is to be repaid as a lump sum after three years and will be used to fund imports of high-tech facilities, he said.

The seven-bank consortium includes standard chartered Asia LTD.

Burma

Troops Halt Offensive After 'Heavy Casualties'

BK1604114491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 16 (AFP)—Rangoon troops have halted their dry season offensive against ethnic guerrillas and dissident students on the Thai-Burmese border after sustaining heavy casualties, a spokesman for the students said Tuesday.

In severe clashes since early March between 5th Light Infantry Regiment troops and Karen forces at Phawta, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of the Karen National Union base on the border, 78 Burmese soldiers were killed, Thaung Htun, a spokesman for the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) said. Eight Karen guerrillas were killed in the fighting, he said in a statement released to news agencies here.

Burmese air force planes also dropped some 150 bombs per day from March 16-19 on the area, but flew too high to target the guerrillas, he said. "Many innocent old people, women and children were killed during the air raids, and farms and domestic animals were destroyed," he said.

One army officer and four privates were killed in clashes for a strategic hilltop 16 kilometers (10 miles) west of Manerplaw, which is also a base for the ABSDF and several other anti-government organizations grouped together under the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), he said.

Troops of the 6th Light Infantry Regiment retreated from the area on March 30 after counterattacks by Karen and militant student units, the student spokesman said. "After facing heavy casualties, the army's dry season offensives have been temporarily stagnated," he said.

The KNU is one of several ethnic minority groupings fighting the Rangoon government for regional autonomy. It provides sanctuary to hundreds of students who have fled a Burmese military crackdown on student-led protests for democracy.

Khun Sa Forces Driven Back Toward Thai Border

BK1804015591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 91 p A6

[By Khorkhet Chantaloetlak]

[Text] Notorious drug warlord Khun Sa's forces, mauled badly by Thai and Burmese troops, have been driven back to the areas near the Thai border in Chiang Mai from where they had earlier been forced deeper inside Burma, a Thai military source said.

The source said on Tuesday that Rangoon had recently stepped up suppression operations against Khun Sa's Mon Tai army following an agreement among the Thai and Burmese military to "search and destroy" his forces.

Early this month, the Burmese military reportedly agreed to drive Khun Sa's men from areas deep inside Burma towards Thai border to be "destroyed" by Thai troops. Rangoon has reportedly faced difficulties in carrying out its mission due to problems of logistics, Thai military sources said early this month. Washington has reportedly granted Bt [baht] 1 billion for the joint suppression campaigns which are also aimed at disrupting Khun Sa's ability to produce and distribute heroin.

Khun Sa's army retreated deeper inside Burma after the Thai Army Region 3 ferociously bombed his strongholds in Doi Laktaeng and Doi Laem inside Burma close to Chiang Mai's border district of Mae Ai last month. The bombardment, involving artillery shelling, aerial bombing and strafing by helicopter gunships, followed the deaths and injuries of Thai villagers and soldiers caused by stray mortar shells landing near a village during a flare-up of fighting between Khun Sa's army and the rival Wa force.

The military source said the strikes by the Burmese troops gave Khun Sa no other choice than to flee back to his former strongholds. "That showed that the Burmese military was keeping its word with the US to drive Khun Sa's men to be wiped out by Thai soldiers," the source said, requesting anonymity.

The source said the regional Thai-Burmese joint committee will hold a meeting today in Mae Hong Son province's Khun Yaum district to discuss in depth the joint operations for cracking down on Khun Sa's men. The committee was expected to discuss the demarcation of the operational areas for each side, according to the source. He said the Thai military was now reluctant to launch operations deeper inside Burma if not allowed by their Burmese counterparts first. He said the Thai military could reattack Khun Sa's strongholds in Doi Laktaeng and Doi Laem because there were near Thai border.

The Thai Military has set up two commands for the operations against Khun Sa, the source said. He said they were located at the Thai-Burmese Border Overseeing Command's headoffice in Mae Hong Son province and at Border Patrol Police Company 334 in Mae Ai. The two commands were launching intelligence gathering operations on Khun Sa's troops' movements, he said.

Apart from discussing the joint operations, the source said, Thai representatives on the joint committee would ask their Burmese counterparts to pull back about 50 Burmese forestry, customs and military personnel who were positioned exactly on the border near Mae Hong Son's Khun Yuam district.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

PRC Delegates To Pave Way for Diplomatic Ties

BK1604134291 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 8

[By Ignatius Stephen,—writing for THE SUNDAY TIMES]

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan—A high-level Chinese Foreign Ministry delegation is now in Brunei to lay the groundwork for diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The four-member Beijing group, which arrived here on Wednesday, is led by Mr Xu Dunxin, a Foreign Ministry assistant minister.

In an exclusive interview with a local weekend newspaper, Mr Xu said that China hoped to establish diplomatic relations with Brunei "on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence and the principles of the United Nations Charter."

He said the Chinese side respected Brunei's position on this.

He added that he saw no major problems in the way of setting up diplomatic relations. The two countries already have trade and sporting links.

Brunei's Foreign Minister, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, has also met his Chinese counterpart at the United Nations a number of times.

"The relationship between the two during these meetings has been cordial and friendly," said Mr Xu.

During his visit, Mr Xu called on Prince Mohammed Bolkiah and other Foreign Ministry officials.

Observers regard the visit by the Chinese delegation as important. Of the ASEAN countries, only Brunei has yet to establish dipomatic ties with China.

Indonesia resumed diplomatic relations with China last August and Singapore established ties with Beijing last October.

Malaysia

Police Chief on Antifederal Pamphlets in Sabah

BK1104142891 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The inspector general of police, Tan Sri Haniff Omar, says the action by certain people who disseminated antifederal government pamphlets and by those who belittled Islam in Sabah is an irresponsible act that could cause conflict among the people in the country. Police have stepped up investigations to trace those responsible for publishing and distributing such pamphlets. Tan Sri Haniff urged the good people of Sabah who know about the activities to cooperate with the police to bring these culprits to court. [Words indistinct] received a copy of the pamphlets posted from Sabah several months ago. Those involved in such activities will be prosecuted. Tan Sri Haniff was speaking to reporters after presenting checks to widows and next of kin of police personnel in the [word indistinct] air crash in 1989 and the Karak Highway accident last year. [passage omitted]

The inspector general of police also said 18 of 25 applications by former Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] members to return the country are expected to be processed by June. He added that former CPM chief Chin Peng is among the 400 who have applied to return. But his application is not in the 25 that have reached the final stage of processing. Tan Sri Haniff said the lack of documents supporting the applications is among the problems faced by the processing authorities.

Non-Muslims Named to Kelantan Committee

BK1604114791 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] KOTA BAHARU, Sun.—Veteran MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] politician and head of the Kelantan Chinese Assembly Hall Datuk Foo Chow Yong is among the three Chinese leaders picked by the Pas [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party]-led Government to sit in the Non-Muslims Affairs Consultative Committee.

State Executive Councillor and the chairman of the committee Datuk Wan Hashim Wan Ahmad said Datuk Foo's appointment was his personal choice and had the approval of Menteri Besar [chief minister] Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

According to him, Datuk Foo had served as the Padang Garong State Assemblyman for four terms and is widely respected among the people in Kota Baharu.

Datuk Wan Hashim said besides Datuk Foo, the names of those nominated to look after the affairs of the Chinese are businessmen Khoo Beng Ee and Han Hip Kuan.

The Indian community would be represented by Datuk Khalid Haji Ibrahim Sheikh and S.K.L. Mani while the Thai community would be served by Eh Chan s/o [son of] Shoudi.

Representing the State Government are Datuk Halim Mohamad (deputy chairman), Haji Yahya Othman, Haji Hashim Ibrahim, Mejar (R) [retired] Hassan Abdul Rahman, Shahban Mohd Wazai and Tengku Noor Aishah Tengku Ahmad.

Speaking to reporters at his office, today, he added that those selected by the State Government would receive their appointment letters after the Hari Raya [Ramadan] holidays.

The first meeting is expected to be held two weeks after Hari Raya and is likely [to] be chaired by the Menteri Besar Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

"The objective of setting up the committee is to create a closer rapport among the various races in the State to ensure political stability," said Datuk Wan Hashim.

The six people appointed to the committee declined comment.

Kelantan Palace Stops 'Political Interference'

BK1604114991 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Apr 91 p 2

[By Jahabar Sadiq and "Sivakumar Kuttan]

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Sun.—The Kelantan Palace is no longer interfering with political matters in the State but certain opposition leaders are still using the Sultan's name for their political gain, State UMNO [United Malays National Organization] deputy liaison chief, Senator Anwar Musa said today.

He said the palace had stopped all political interference after the general election last year.

"As far as I can see, the Sultan of Kelantan no longer interferes in political matters," Senator Anwar, who is also Youth and Sports Minister, told newsmen at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on arrival from Malta where the Malaysian delegation made a presentation in its bid to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Senator Anwar headed the 17-member delegation which included OCM [Olympic Committee of Malaysia] president Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah, vice-presidents Datuk Alex Lee and Tunku Imran Tunku Jaafar, and Tan Sri Elyas Omar.

The UMNO General Assembly, in early December, unnaminously adopted a resolution on the Rulers and the Constitution, urging the party leadership to see the Yang di-Pertuan Agong [paramount ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah to discuss further the role of the Rulers under the Constitution.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed handed the UMNO resolution to the King on Feb 26.

Senator Anwar also spoke at length on the continuous influx of Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party] members into UMNO.

He said other Semangat 46 Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen would join the party soon. "Members at both top and grassroot levels will also join UMNO because they realise that Semangat 46 is weak," he said.

He said certain MPs [members of parliament] and State Assemblymen had reservations on joining UMNO as they were afraid of the proposed amendments to the Kelantan State Constitution.

The proposed Bill, which is expected to be tabled at the next State Assembly, seeks to declare a seat vacant if an Assemblyman crosses to another party.

There is also a possiblity that the provision will be made retroactive to the day the new Government was formed.

Asked whether UMNO would consider allowing those who lost their seat to recontest under the Barisan Nasional ticket when the Bill becomes law, he said: "The decision on this matter lies with the party president."

He said so far the party had not received complaints about applications for membership being rejected.

On why the application of former Semangat youth chief Haji Ibrahim Ali was processed within a few days, Senator Anwar said: "The party constitution has a provision which allows the Supreme Council to process the applications of oposition members who held top party posts in their former parties."

Haji Ibrahim officially joined UMNO on March 30.

Three Leaders Quit Dissident Party in Kedah

BK1604120091 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Sungai Petani, Sun—Three Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party] division leaders, including a candidate involved in a straight fight with Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin in the last general election, today announced their decision to quit the party.

The three, Sungai Petani division leader Syed Hussein Syed Mohamed Alkaff, deputy leader Mohamad Johari Abidin who contested the Merbok parliamentary seat, and division youth leader Syed Rahmat Syed Faisol, cited loss of confidence in the party leadership and its struggle.

More members from the division are expected to leave the party following the resignation of State leader Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari last month.

Syed Hussein said the three reached the decision voluntarily.

"We feel the party has lost its direction and the recent developments in Kedah are disturbing.

"The party leadership has ignored Kedah since the general election. We are kept in the dark of party decisions and are unhappy with the present state of affairs," he told a Press conference today.

The party leadership is said to have ignored the events in Kedah since the general election.

Even when the state leader Datuk Zaino Abidin Johari announced his decision to quit the party, the leadership did not intervene.

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is said to have appointed State deputy leader Bashiron Hanafiah to head the party without notifying the State committee, following Datuk Zainol's resignation.

The State deputy leader is not popular with members and this has worsened matters in the party.

Meanwhile Mohamad Johari Abidin who contested the last general election said Semangat 46 had not kept its election pledge and was losing support of the Malays.

Division youth leader Syed Rahmat said the party was split in every State and this meant there was probably something wrong with its administration and struggle.

Cambodia

Hor Namhong To Visit France; Hun Sen Tokyo

BK1804113891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 18 (AFP)—Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will travel to France on a private visit after his current tour of Poland and the Soviet Union, a reliable source said Thursday.

Mr. Hor Namhong was expected to meet with French Foreign Ministry officials, the source said, without giving any more details.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports indicated that Prime Minister Hun Sen would soon travel to Tokyo to discuss a Japanese peace plan for war-torn Cambodia and humanitarian assistance to the government here.

Mr. Hor Namhong left Phnom Penh on Monday for important visits to Poland and the Soviet Union that would focus on future economic cooperation following major changes in the external trade relation policies of Warsaw and Moscow.

The Cambodian official was due in Poland on Thursday to start a three-day "working visit" after brief stops in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City and Moscow.

He would then visit Moscow for an unknown number of days before travelling to Paris, a reliable source said.

Mr. Hor Namhong, leading a five-member delegation including a Planning Ministry official, was expected to meet with his Polish counterpart Krzysztof Skubiszewski for discussions on economic relation, scholarships and cultural aid.

He was also likely to meet Polish businessmen and Cambodian students in Warsaw.

"We have many things to discuss," because of the new situation and government in Warsaw, a Polish source here said, adding that no new agreements were expected during the visit as this was a first meeting between the two government since changes in Warsaw.

However a major trade pact is expected in May between the two countries, specifying that all exchanges must be in hard currency and at world prices.

Mr. Hor Namhong is reportedly carrying a message from President Heng Samrin to his Polish counterpart Lech Walesa but it was not clear if the Cambodian official would meet the former Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The visit to Warsaw follows an official trip to the Polish capital last year by Son Sann, leader of a nationalist faction in the three-party Cambodian resistance alliance.

Details of the Moscow leg of the visit were not available but the two countries have not signed an economic agreement to replace the one that ended last year.

Report Calls Mobilization Efforts Inadequate

BK1804030691 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0138 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 Apr (SPK)—The people'c committee of Phnom Penh City recently held a recapitulative meeting to review the emulation movement in 1990 and define tasks for 1991.

According to the report presented on this occasion, the city's mobilization efforts for national defense have not met the needs of the Defense Ministry, even in the agriculture sector where only 11,250 hectares of rice had been planted, or 80 percent of the plan. However, the program to restore waterworks, notably the dikes at O Baek Kam, O Dem, and Kap Srov, water gates, and irrigation canals was achieved 100 percent.

The city's trade service is outstanding in this emulation movement by achieving 157 percent of its plan to buy foodstuff. Praiseworthy results were also accredited to the town plannning department, the communications, transport, and posts services, the tourism department, and the industrial sector.

Eight units received from the municipal people's committee challenge banners and many individuals received the Council of Ministers' felicitation certificates.

Heng Samrin Receives Lao Army Delegation

BK1804082391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 13 April at the former royal palace, Comrade Heng Samrin, secretary general of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, granted an audience to the delegation of the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Political Department led by Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party

[LPRP] and chief of the LPA General Political Department, which has come to attend the meeting between General Political Departments of the two countries.

Comrade Heng Samrin highly valued the fruitful outcome of the bilateral meeting. The comrade said that following the total repatriation of the Vietnamese volunteer troops, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and the Cambodian people, under the leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, have successfully shouldered political, military, and security tasks. The comrade general secretary stressed that in the period when fighting must go side by side with the negotiation, the CPAF have gained more experiences in ensuring security for the people. The comrade also spoke on the enemy's strategic schemes which have not changed but still aimed at toppling our people's state power through all forms of reactionary tricks, adding that all their maneuvers were successively frustrated by the great united forces of the Army and people.

Also on that occasion, the comrade general secretary stressed that the three Indochinese countries must always strengthen their solidarity in confronting all kinds of situations now and in the future.

In conclusion, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin extended best wishes for the delegation, Lao party-state-front leaders and fraternal Lao people to achieve even greater successes in implementing the resolutions of the LPRP Fifth Congress.

In his reply, Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva expressed profound thanks to the Cambodian party and government of the State of Cambodia for their warm welcome and facilities for the bilateral meeting to proceed successfully. After informing the comrade general secretary of the success at the bilateral meeting, the comrade lieutenant general hailed Cambodia's rapid progress in all aspects, particularly the growth of the CPAF which is capable of independently fighting and conquering enemies of all stripes.

Party Delegation Leaves for Visit to Laos

BK1804054491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0415 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 18—A delegation of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee led by Im Chhunlim, member of the PRPK Central Committee and first vice director of its office, left here on April 17 on a working visit to Laos.

The delegation was seen off at Pochentong airport by Khoy Khunhuor, first vice president of the party Propagada and Education Commission; and others.

Laos ambassador to Cambodia Thongsoukhoun Phounsavan was also on hand.

KUFNCD Urges Resistance Members To Return

BK1604095591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 Apr 91

["Appeal from the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] to the compatriots who are in the ranks of the other Cambodian side"—read by announcer]

[Text] Our Cambodian nation used to have a glorious history and had been renowned throughout the world for its famous Angkor civilization. Our people used to have a patriotic tradition and were valiant in struggling for national defense and construction.

Historic lessons of our nation show that the great national united forces are the decisive factors that determine all the victories for our national causes in all epochs. Thanks to the entire great national united forces under the banner of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] and the international solidarity forces, the Cambodian people had realized the most outstanding cause in their national history by toppling the bloodthirsty Pol Pot regime on 7 January 1979, thus salvaging the Cambodian people and nation from the threat of genocide.

A new era has been ushered in for building an independent, democratic, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia. Every Cambodian has enjoyed all kinds of rights and freedoms, including rights and freedoms to live; to earn a living; to own land, houses, and means of production; to uphold religious belief, traditions, and customs; and to take part in all political and social activities.

For more than the past 12 years, our people's national united forces have surmounted countless obstacles and difficulties and made big achievements in the cause of national defense and construction. The most outstanding achievement is the rebuilding of the national society in all aspects and successfully preventing the return of the genocidal regime.

From the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia to date, our Armed Forces and people have successfully defended national achievements by themselves. New victories won on the military field at the beginning of the current dry season have frustrated the military adventures of the other Cambodian groups, causing them heavy defeats.

Thanks to these victories, together with the State of Cambodia's efforts to seek an appropriate and fair political solution—on the basis of preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, maintaining the military and political status quo, undertaking respect for Cambodian people's sovereignty and right to self- determination, and correctly implementing the UN Charter—the State of Cambodia has enjoyed more international support and assistance. International public opinion has increasingly condemned the alliance of the genocidal ringleaders which will not be able to avoid its total defeat and collapse.

As for the compatriots who are in the ranks of the other Cambodian groups, our State of Cambodia has a clemency policy toward you. We always regard all compatriots as our blood brothers and have never wanted to drive you out of our national society. Many compatriots who had repented and returned to join our national society and their families have been welcomed by the authorities and the people. They enjoy the same rights and freedoms as other citizens. They have been reunited with their families and taken part in national construction.

This occasion when our people are joyfully marking our traditional New Year, the year of the goat, is the best chance for all compatriots to seek ways to break from the ranks of the genocidal ringleaders' alliance. Those compatriots who bring along arms, ammunition, or documents will be awarded by our authorities according to the quantity and types of arms and materiel. Compatriots with rank and duties who want to join our nation in carrying out social work will be given work according to their abilities and knowledge.

The time has come for all compatriots to turn to the truth, think of the destinies of our motherland and people, think of the life and future of yourselves and your own families, and quickly return to join your families and national society to jointly strive to build our motherland and happiness for our children in the future generation.

The motherland and people and your families are always waiting for your return.

Prince Ranariddh Sends New Year Greetings

BK1604102791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Greetings message from Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, addressed to Cambodian compatriots on the traditional new year of the goat, which falls on 13, 14, and 15 April 1991—recorded]

[Text] On the royal behalf of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—our beloved and venerated samdech euv—and in my capacity as the commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC], I have the greatest honor and deepest satisfaction to express my best wishes on the traditional new year of the goat, to all elders, brothers, and sisters, to all my compatriots living in refugee camps along the Cambodian-Thai border as well as those inside Cambodia in the zones under the temporary control of the Vietnamese. May all of you constantly enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

On the most propitious occasion of this New Year, I wish all blood brothers, all venerable monks, and all ladies and gentlemen success, happiness, prosperity, and the best of health. In my capacity as the commander in chief of the NAIC, I wish all beloved and esteemed combatants and officers of the NAIC who are carrying out their great mission to liberate the motherland from the claws of the aggressor communist Vietnamese. May you enjoy success everywhere. May you defeat the enemy, namely the Vietnamese who have been committing aggression against and occupying our Cambodian motherland for over the past 10 years in their dark scheme to swallow our land and turn our country into one of their provinces.

Venerable monks and beloved Cambodian blood brothers: On the occasion of this Cambodian new year, I would like to convey the warmest greetings and most profound affection of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, our venerated and beloved samdech euv, to all venerable monks and to all brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, and grandmothers who are his children. Although our master, the venerated samdech euv, has not appeared in person to greet you and join you in celebrating our traditional new year at this moment, he has worried constantly about the fate of all his children who for over 10 years—that is, since the aggressor communist Vietnamese enemy invaded and occupied our country—have been experiencing all kinds of suffering, hardship, and separation without respite and have never been able to organize a grand celebration of our traditional Cambodian new year as we could when our country enjoyed independence, sovereignty, and prosperity in the era of Sangkom Reas Niyom [Sihanouk's ruling party].

Venerable monks, dear compatriots, I am most glad and proud to note that on this occasion all our compatriots living in the villages, communes, and provinces in the zones under the control of the Cambodian nationalist movement, particularly in the areas controlled by the National United Front for an independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia and the NAIC, have the ability to properly organize the celebration of our traditional New Year as in the past. This utterly contrasts with the zones controlled by the aggressor Communist Vietnamese where the population experiences nothing but oppression and exploitation.

In conclusion, I would like to express most profound thanks to all Buddhist monks and Cambodian compatriots throughout the country for supporting the nationalist armies, especially the NAIC. I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to the fraternal combatants in the ranks of the Heng Samrin army who have supported or aided the NAIC in one way or another the most profound gratitude and thanks personally from me as the personal representative of our samdech euv. The support you have given us constitutes a testimony showing all of us that you have clearly understood that the Vietnamese did not sincerely come to save the Cambodian people from the polpotists, that they came here only to plunder

Cambodian land, Cambodian waters, Cambodian fish, Cambodian rice, and Cambodian forests, and that they came here only to violate human rights in Cambodia.

Moreover, in my capacity as the commander in chief of the NAIC, I would like to extend once again to all of you who are the courageous leaders and beloved and esteemed combatants of the NAIC and other armies of patriots who are waging a struggle for the independence of Cambodia all the five blessings of Lord Buddha and best wishes for your happiness and success, especially for your victory over the land-grabbing aggressor communist Vietnamese so that all of us Cambodians can coexist as a great family in peace and with happiness.

Thank you all.

Son Sann Issues Message on New Year

BK1404131991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Message from Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, read by Pol Ham, deputy delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of information, marking the new year—dated 13 April]

[Text] Message from His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, to the Cambodian people on the occasion of the Cambodian traditional new year:

Greetings to the respected clergy and all beloved compatriots. Today we are celebrating the new year, the year of the goat, in keeping with our national tradition, which has survived for centuries. On the occasion of this new year, we should express gratitude to our ancestors who have bequeathed to us a civilization universally recognized as a legacy of mankind.

On this occasion, we should also show gratitude to our courageous combatants, who have sacrificed their lives to defend and safeguard our ancestral territory against the Cambodian nation's numerous enemies.

Since our active participation in the national liberation struggle, we have achieved great victories in the military, political, and diplomatic fields. Thanks to the support from the friendly peace- and justice-loving countries worldwide and the determination of our entire people, we are moving closer to the peace we have all longed for. However, peace can only prevail if it brings about dignity for us as a fully independent, free, and sovereign nation.

In 1990, with assistance from the big five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the international community worked out a formula that can restore peace and dignity to the Cambodian nation. The formula, which is the big five's peace plan, was adopted on 28 August 1990. It was the first time the five UNSC permanent members unanimously agreed to resolve the crisis which has lasted over two decades and which has caused terrible suffering and hardship to the innocent Cambodian people.

Facing this situation, the big five were of the opinion that armed conflict should be stopped and that a political resolution of the Cambodian crisis should be considered. In view of this, the peace plan makes provision for:

1. The administration of Cambodia during the transitional period until free and general elections are held;

2. Military measures;

3. The organization of elections under UN auspices;

4. Measures to protect human rights; and

5. An international guarantee.

On 10 September 1990, the peace plan achieved great success after the four Cambodian parties totally accepted it as the groundwork for the settlement of the current crisis. On the same day, all of the Cambodian parties also agreed to establish a highest state organ for the interim period called the Supreme National Council [SNC]. According to the Jakarta agreement of 10 September, the SNC is composed of 12 members: six from the Phnom Penh side and six others from the resistance movement. However, one of the agreement's provisions stipulates that if all the SNC members desire a chairman, the latter will become the 13th member of the Supreme Council. And on the issue of the SNC chairman, the five UNSC permanent members have unambiguously stated that: Should the Cambodian parties elect Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the leader, the five would welcome this decision.

But the Cambodian people's hope for an early peace in the country collapsed when the leaders of the Phnom Penh regime refused to accept Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the SNC chairman and persisted in electing the chairman from among the 12 members on the grounds that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was an outsider of the council and that no agreement demands that the chairman be elected as the 13th member. This position has stood in the way of the big five's peace plan. By all accounts, despite the adamant attitude against the peace trend of Vietnam and the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh, the international community has neither become disinterested in nor relinquished its attempt to close the books on our compatriots' suffering.

The UNSC called an urgent meeting on 20 September 1990 and adopted Resolution 668, which welcomes the creation of the SNC and appeals to the council to elect its chairman as quickly as possible in compliance with the Jakarta agreement of 10 September 1990. Afterward, on 15 October 1990, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Jakarta agreement and called on the Vietnamese and Heng Samrin-Hun Sen sides to implement the accord. This is a great diplomatic victory achieved by the Cambodian people.

Faced with international pressure, Vietnam and the regime it has installed in Phnom Penh have intensely launched a propaganda campaign and employed all manner of pretexts for turning down the rational and fair peace plan. They have refused to allow the United Nations to have an enhanced role in administering Cambodia during the transitional period in compliance with the mandate handed down by the Cambodian SNC. This is to create a neutral political atmosphere without threat from any party against the Cambodian people in the process of electing a political regime and state leaders. They have argued that if they abide by the big five's peace plan, Cambodia will lose its sovereignty. They mean the sovereignty of the regime that the Vietnamese installed in the wake of Vietnam's invasion and occupation of our country. Moreover, they have objected to the disarmament, claiming that if they lay down arms, the Khmer Rouge could seize them and return to power. On this issue, I wish to inform the clergy and the brothers and sisters that the big five's plan has required the disarmament of all parties, not only that of the Phnom Penh side. During the disarmament, a UN force will be dispatched to protect our people from being killed by any individual, group, or party.

The only truth behind the rejection by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime to lay down arms is that if they disarm, the disguised and hidden Vietnamese troops within the Heng Samrin army will no longer be able to occupy Cambodia. At present, Vietnam has hidden some 60,000 Vietnamese soldiers within the Heng Samrin forces and has sent over 1.3 million Vietnamese civilians to resettle in Cambodia.

Another point frequently raised by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side for the purpose of casting aside the peace plan of the big five is the question of genocide. They have contended that the peace plan has not clearly specified measures on preventing the Khmer Rouge from returning to power. However, as I already mentioned, the 4th clause of the peace plan unequivocally stipulates the respect for human rights in Cambodia. With the plan, our people will again enjoy their rights as human beings with rationality and thinking. They will have freedom of movement, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of meeting, freedom of self-defense, and so on. These are the citizens' basic freedoms and rights that our people have completely lost under the despotic communist regimes and Vietnamese colonialism. The vital guarantee on human rights depends on the presence in Cambodia of a UN technical organ and the representative of the UN secretary general who can present reports to the UN General Assembly, initiate preventive measures, and guarantee respect for human rights.

I believe that after fully recovering their freedom and rights, our people will be able to block the recurrence of the internationally condemned regime and policy. Our people's sacred rights must be recognized.

Although the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh regime have not yet shown their heartfelt goodwill on the track of a solution to end the war in our Cambodia, the development of international events is of benefit to the struggle carried on by our nation and people. The end of the war in Kuwait has deflected the international community's attention to the Cambodian problem, which was presumably ignored for a while. Moreover, the political changes in the Soviet Union and East Europe have all enhanced the settlement of the crisis in our country as well. The turnabout has impaired the ability of the Soviet Union, ringleader of the Warsaw Pact, to continue providing aid to Vietnam and the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime. And this has compelled the Vietnamese leaders to select between two options: Turn to their communist counterparts or join the liberal country. If turning to the communist country, only the PRC is still available. But the latter has clearly pointed out that so long as Vietnam persists in refusing to resolve the Cambodian problem, it cannot normalize relations with China no matter what. If joining the liberal country, Vietnam should restructure its political regime. This reform can affect the present communist leaders, who have no intention whatsoever of sharing power with anybody else at all.

On this issue, the United States has clearly spelled out that if Vietnam refuses to participate in settling the Cambodian problem via a just political solution, meaning in case there is no government appointed by the Cambodian people through fair democratic elections, Vietnam should not dream of receiving aid from the United States.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to again appeal to all the countries in the West to further apply economic pressure on the Vietnamese until they are forced to accept the full implementation of the peace blueprint hammered out by the big five. Otherwise, economic aid from the liberal country will become a tasty fodder for strengthening the Hanoi communist regime, which is ambitious to swallow Cambodia, thereby intensifying the suffering of the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples. Conversely, if Vietnam realizes that a settlement of the Cambodian problem within the framework of the big five's peace plan is the only way to benefit it economically, Vietnam should respect the view overwhelmingly expressed by the international community.

I have appealed on several occasions to the Vietnamese leaders to diminish the century-old trouble between Cambodia and Vietnam in order to join forces to completely remove animosity toward each other and to peacefully coexist in good neighborliness with the aim of bringing about peace and happiness for the Cambodian as well as Vietnamese peoples.

During my recent visit to Japan, I again put forth my reconstruction plan, like the Marshall plan, not only for Cambodia but also for Vietnam and Laos. This is because if only Cambodia is in peace and its neighbors continue to remain in poverty, war can possibly break out again. Both Japanese political and economic leaders were impressed by the plan and pledged to provide us with aid after peace is restored. At the moment, Japan is displaying its all-out efforts to achieve peace for Cambodia at the earliest date.

Once more, on behalf of the Cambodian nation, I would like to thank the five permanent members of the UNSC and the cochairmen of the Paris conference on Cambodia who have assisted in preparing the peace plan of vital importance and have promoted the peace process toward its ultimate goal. I think that the peace plan is the only formula that can restore independence and sovereignty to Cambodia and the right to self-determination to our entire people. No formula is better than this one.

I call on the big five and the Paris conference cochairmen to continue to assist and support the peace plan and to force Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side to accept to completely implement the peace plan so the Cambodian people can quickly rid themselves of suffering and hardship caused by the over-20-year war.

I wish to pray to the mighty gods and, in particular the new year angels, to help remove all manner of obstacles to the peace process so our Cambodian nation can regain peace, security, order, and prosperity as a nation with an ancient glorious civilization.

May the new year angels protect the beloved clergy, brothers, sisters, and compatriots both military and civilian and help them—the owners of the country and of their own destiny—to happily unite with their families and near or distant relatives and live peacefully with dignity on the sacred land of Cambodia in this new year, the year of the goat.

Long live the Cambodian nation!

Long live the Cambodian people!

Long live the Cambodian tradition!

[Dated] 13 April 1991

[Signed] Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia

Son Sann Calls for Continued SRV Isolation

BK1304095591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the Cambodian national government, by station corrspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] [Correspondent] I have heard that you recently made an important visit to Tokyo. Please tell our compatriots about your visit.

[Son Sann] I was honored to pay a one-week visit to Japan as representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and "in fact as a representative of all Cambodian compatriots." "I met a number of high-ranking personalities, including Prime Minister Kaifu, the current foreign minister, former Prime Minister Fukoda, and Watanabe, a possible future prime minister, and a number of Japanese parliamentarians."

I informed my hosts about the Cambodian situation and asked them to assist us after we have peace. My hosts welcomed my suggestion that "they assist in training Cambodians to enable us to accept aid once we have peace." On the political front, I talked about the war in Cambodia where "there are 5,700 Vietnamese aggressors along with 1.3 millions Vietnamese settlers." "I stressed that we are fighting to liberate Cambodia from the Vietnamese aggressors and that it is not a civil war."

The war in the Gulf region has now ended and the five major powers have now turned their attention to us again. There are newspaper reports saying that Hanoi wants to assist the cochairmen of the international conference on Cambodia. "However, the fact is that Vietnam has not provided any assistance; there is nothing in Vietnam's stance to show that it is assisting the cochairmen to solve the Cambodian problem quickly." "France, in the past has helped Vietnam and Phnom Penh. Now, after their visit to Hanoi, the two cochairmen have realized the Vietnamese stance. They have now said the obstacle to a solution worked out by the five major countries is Vietnam and Phnom Penh."

"There is a new government in Thailand. Both civilian and military authorities have long known us and assisted us since 1979. Now the six ASEAN countries have the same policy of assisting the resistance to liberate Cambodia from the Vietnamese aggressors." "The Soviet Union has now agreed to hold talks with Japan on disputed islands; the Soviet side has never agreed to this before. This is a good thing for Japan."

"I have told Japanese personalities that the 28 August 1990 framework document cannot be altered. The cochairmen, Mr Alatas and the French representative who went to Hanoi, also reaffirmed this. This document cannot be changed because the bargain has already been done. All we can do to improve it is to ask the five major powers to elaborate on the 28 November [as heard] documents' annex. Some progress may be made on this. But any changes affecting the five major powers' policy cannot be made. I would like to inform compatriots about this."

A request has been made for an urgent meeting, this month, of the Supreme National Council with the cochairmen. "If we all want peace, we should all go to this meeting. Do not say that I am already engaged in this or that because this means you do not want to bring peace to Cambodia quickly in accordance with our Cambodian people's aspirations." "For us, we have already unconditionally agreed to the five major powers' solution." Japan wants to help us and people realize who is the obstacle to a solution.

I have repeatedly asked Cambodians to stop killing Cambodians because this only benefits the Vietnamese. If our youths are conscripted to fight and be maimed, there would be no one left; the place would be taken by the Vietnamese who are already in our country. "I also appeal for reconciliation because in Cambodia, if we cannot unite, we will not survive." "Once more, I appeal to Phnom Penh to free those jailed since 1979" to create a good and conciliatory atmosphere. Please accede to the request of the International Red Cross and Amnesty International to visit prisoners in Phnom Penh.

Some Vietnamese have now turned to the United States for assistance. "The U.S. side has clearly said that it will not provide even one dollar as long as Vietnam does not solve the Cambodian problem and refuses to withdraw its troops and illegal settlers from Cambodia." "Some other Vietnamese went to China. China simply says there is no problem in future relations; the only request it makes is for Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia and to solve the Cambodian problem in accordance with the five major powers' proposal. I appeal to everyone to follow the examples of the United States and China, that is not to help Vietnam; not to grant any loan to Vietnam; and not to have diplomatic relations with Vietnam as long the latter does not assist in solving the Cambodian problem and still maintains its troops and settlers in Cambodia."

SRV Foreign Ministry Statement Viewed

BK1804052191 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 17 Apr 91

["Article": "The Hanoi Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors Cannot Dupe People Into Establishing Relations With Them Before Solving and Ending the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] On 15 April, the Foreign Ministry of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors deceitfully called on others to establish relations with them first before solving the Cambodian problem. This is an outdated deceitful trick the Hanoi Vietnamese have been using in their diplomacy. In the war of aggression over the past 13 years, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy have also been practicing dupery and deception. They used this in the past too. People still remember how the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy cheated in the 1973 Paris agreement.

Now the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy are at an impasse both of the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia and on the diplomatic front. The world is pressuring the Hanoi Vietnamese from every direction to force them to accept the documents of the five permanent members. The situation in Vietnam itself is deteriorating, economically, politically, and socially. The Hanoi Vietnamese are detested and increasingly opposed by Vietnamese people.

In a situation in which they are facing increasing difficulties, Vietnam's allies in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are also disintegrating. The Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors are panic stricken by this situation. Still, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors continue to behave insolently toward others and to deceive people into establishing relations and trading with them. What for? This is certainly not to solve the Cambodian problem as the Vietnamese have claimed. This is to strengthen Vietnam to enable it to continue Vietnam's war of aggression to massacre the Cambodian nation and people, annex Cambodian territory, and continue to threaten security and stability in Southeast Asia.

The world is clearly aware of the real and tricky nature of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors; it is not stupid enough to be taken in by the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy. It has the documents of the five permanent members—which have been fully supported by the whole world, including countries in the region, the UN Security Council, and the UN General Assembly. People will continue to stand firmly by these documents and pressure the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys into absolutely implementing these documents.

People clearly realize that only by forcing the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy and its puppets and lackeys to accept and fully implement these documents can Cambodia have genuine peace and can security and stability in Southeast Asia be ensured.

Philippines

Aquino Warned of Impeachment for Bases Referendum

HK1804053091 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada, one of the anti-bases senators, warned he would file impeachment proceedings against President Corazon Aquino if she holds a national referendum regarding the U.S. military bases in the country prior to the Senate's ratification of a treaty. Tanada quoted Section 25, Article 18 of the Constitution, which clearly states that the Senate has to ratify a bases treaty before a referendum is held. He said he would not have any second thoughts about filing a resolution for Aquino's impeachment for violating the Constitution.

Earlier, Malacanang stated it will consult the Filipino people about the bases issue even before presenting the treaty to the Senate for ratification. However, Malacanang clarified that the consultation it plans to hold is not in the form of a referendum.

Sources: Bases Panel To Consider Extension

HK1804031491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Diplomatic sources yesterday said that the Philippine bases panel will likely consider a "three-year extension" after the seven-year transition period if the United States government will commit itself to the compensation configuration offered by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus for a new security accord.

Sources said that the tough stance of the RP [Republic of the Philippines] panel on its seven-year proposal only came after the U.S. deferred action on the March 12 letter of Manglapus detailing the Philippine bases compensation demand of $825 million annually.

The Philippine government has yet to air a definite stand on a 10-year U.S.-proposed phaseout although the possibility was opened last week by Manglapus who said that he was not closing the phaseout-term to seven years only. Manglapus, when asked if the Philippine panel was closed to its proposed phaseout period of seven years, replied: "I am not saying that, what I'm saying is that our position is seven years." Manglapus also said that in negotiations there is a basic position and anything can happen after that.

Earlier, Manglapus said that the three compensation formulas proposed for a new bases treaty will be discussed by the Philippine bases panel today to come up with a unified scheme that will be presented to the American panel.

Manglapus, who is chief Philippine bases negotiator, said that the proposal made by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao will be included in the unified money package but only as "extender" to the soft component that will be fitted into the overall compensation demand. According to Manglapus "extenders" are alternatives such as trade access or other soft components of the package.

Etsanislao has proposed a bases-related economic package that includes a bond issue for a debt-reduction plan and increased market access of local products to the U.S. Estanislao said this plan would realize as much as $1 billion yearly.

Representative Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan) meanwhile charts a comprehensive bases-related compensation benefit by linking the bases' duration to the extension of the five-year Philippine Assistance Program [PAP]—a U.S.-initiated funding for RP's sagging economy to yield an average $2 billion yearly for the PAP and a build-operate-own (BOO) program to be backed by the U.S. Export-Import Bank export credits and "political insurance guarantees."

Manglapus said that the original framework he gave to Chief Negotiator Richard Armitage will remain as the core component of the package, adding that what the Philippine panel was trying to thresh out was how the proposal from Estanislao and De Venecia would be accommodated into the package.

The RP panel wants $825 million in annual bases compensation—$400 million in hard cash and $425 million in non-budgetary items such as increased trade access and a debt-reduction scheme—linked to a seven-year phaseout duration.

The foreign secretary also said that the money offer he made reflects an appropriate amount for keeping the military installations in Philippine territory. "We are not demanding. What we are asking is an appropriate amount for hosting the U.S. military facilities which ensures the region's security." He added that the Philippines also takes into consideration U.S. budgetary constraints as shown by its formula on trade access and debt condonation. Manglapus also said that the April bases talks may be delayed again because Armitage broke his ankle while jogging.

Manglapus: Bases Issue 'Will Soon Be Resolved'

HK1804094991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Raul Manglapus, Philippine panel chairman and foreign affairs secretary, announced today that the next round of bases talks will be held on Wednesday. The talks, supposedly to take place this week, were postponed when chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage fell ill. Manglapus stressed that both sides will try to reach an agreement, but said he does not know how long the negotiations will last.

In a related development, Secretary Manglapus said the controversial U.S. bases issue will soon be resolved. The details from DZRH Unit 21, Rey Arquiza:

[Begin Arquiza recording] Manglapus today stated that the controversial issue regarding the continued presence of the U.S. bases in the country will soon be resolved, after Washington promised it will undertake measures to enable it to accede to the Philippine demands. The Americans advised us that they are undertaking something that will meet our questions and that will respond to our position, [preceding sentence in English] said Manglapus. He added that U.S. chief special negotiator Armitage told him the United States is carrying out preparations to be able to respond to the Philippine demand on the bases compensation issue, which has long been expected by the Philippine panel. Manglapus also said that Armitage is set to present a new U.S. bases position to the U.S. Congress. However, Manglapus clarified that he does not know the contents of the new U.S. proposal on the bases compensation. The Philippines is seeking $825 million per year for seven years, while the original U.S. proposal was $360 million per year for 10 years. [end recording]

Abadia Announces Additional Changes in Military

HK1704152791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Report by Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia today announced additional changes in the military by naming the new spokesman for the Armed

Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and public information officer [PIO] of the General Headquarters.

This move by Abadia came even as he stated that there will be no major or sweeping revamp in the leadership of the Armed Forces. He explained that the said changes were made to fill the vacant positions resulting from the retirement of AFP Chief General Rodolfo Biazon and the resignation of AFP Deputy Chief Major General Alexander Aguirre.

Abadia said that AFP Spokesman Colonel Juanito Remando will be replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Enrile as PIO and the AFP spokesman will be Colonel Victor Garcia. Remando served as AFP spokesman and PIO during the terms of Generals Renato de Villa and Rodolfo Biazon. Enrile, meanwhile, served as the PIO of Abadia, and Garcia served as civilian military operations chief during the time Abadia was still Army chief.

The new appointments will take effect immediately according to Abadia. Abadia made the announcements to defense reporters, who are seldom given the opportunity to witness a command conference in the highly secluded building of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, or ISAF. Media people are barred from the ISAF building, but Abadia said he would like to stress his policy of transparency.

[Begin Abadia recording, in English] I want to adopt the principle of transparency as far as the media is concerned. I want myself to be available as often as practicable to the media, especially when anything substantive can be discussed which affects the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Abraham Taray formally took office today as the new commander of Camp Aguinaldo and head of the General Headquarters Security Command of the AFP. The turnover ceremony was held a short time ago at Camp Aguinaldo and was attended by new AFP Chief Lisandro Abadia. The former camp commander was Commodore Virgilio David, who was appointed as the new superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

Assures 'No Revamp' in Armed Forces

HK1804014791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Apr 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia assured today that there will be no revamp in the Armed Forces after a reshuffle at the top following the retirement of General Rodolfo Biazon on 12 April and the retirement tomorrow of Air Force Chief Major General Gerardo Protacio.

Abadia said that the reshuffling of posts among top military officers is part of the so-called upward movement of the leadership resulting from the changes in high positions.

[Begin Abadia recording, in English] This is part of the upward movement of leadership brought about by this changing of the guards at the top. This change [word indistinct] will have an effect that will go down. So this is part of it, but no major revamp. [end recording]

On the side of the Philippine Army, Army Chief Major General Arturo Enrile stressed that he has no plans to carry out a revamp, as he assured that top army officers will not be reassigned to other posts. Enrile said that if there is a need for a revamp in his leadership, he will do so depending on the condition of the soldiers.

[Begin Enrile recording, in English] As of this time, there is no revamp and I do not intend to do it immediately. Besides, it depends on how long they have stayed there already. And if they have stayed there for...and some people have stayed there for quite a period of time, maybe it's time for them to go. So far as people who are still within the period that they are supposed to stay in their respective position, I am not transferring them. [end recording]

Abadia Condemns AFP Association's Statement

HK1804053491 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, condemned the president of a group of retired military officials, who issued a statement supportive of Major General Aguirre, for not consulting the majority of the group's members. Abadia said retired Brigadier General Guillermo Picache, the president of the 418-strong association of AFP generals and officers, was presenting only his own opinion and not the whole group's. Picache wrote to President Corazon Aquino stating his support for Aguirre, adding that he supports the presidential prerogative of appointing the AFP chief but also backed Aguirre's call for reforming the promotional system and insulating the military from partisan politics. Abadia said he has exhausted his patience in trying to talk with Aguirre. Aguirre always says he has no time, and that he will call Abadia when he finds time.

New Military Adviser Sees 'No Major Dissension'

HK1804071091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Apr 91 p 1

[By Marcia Rodriguez]

[Text] Former Philippine Navy chief Rear Admiral (ret.) Carlito Y. Cunanan, who takes his oath today before President Aquino at Malacanang as the new presidential assistant on military affairs, said yesterday no major dissension within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is foreseen as an offshoot of the appointment of Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as AFP chief of staff.

Cunanan said he based his conclusion on an informal survey conducted among officers of the AFP on all levels. He said that the survey indicates general support for the appointment of Abadia, adding they understand that the choice of the AFP chief of staff is a "presidential prerogative."

Asked about the fate of Maj. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, Cunanan said, it was up to the AFP general command to determine if Aguirre, who resigned last week as AFP deputy chief of staff, is to be censured or sacked. Aquirre had invoked the issue of seniority and denounced the "wisdom" of Mrs. Aquino's choice.

A multi-awarded naval officer, Cunanan replaces former Army chief Mariano Adalem who has been assigned as fulltime president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Adalem, who held the position of presidential assistant on military affairs for nearly two years, was assigned to Pagcor after the Supreme Court ruled that Cabinet members and top government officials cannot occupy dual or multiple positions in government-owned or controlled corporations not related to their primary functions.

Cunanan, former commander of the Subic Naval Base Command, said that while Aguirre has not been found guilty of insubordination, he said the possibilities that he will be sacked are always there. He said that charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer" is a "catch all" phrase. He cited, for instance, that the failure to salute a high-ranking officer could be considered a case of insubordination.

An officer cannot refuse to obey an order to go on an assignment or ask the logic of an order, he said. Instead, he can request for a leave or a vacation if he dislikes an assignment. "He must obey orders, complain later," he said.

Cunanan expressed support for a proposal of National Security Director Rafael Ileto calling for a change of the curriculum of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA], particularly principles that put emphasis on the issue of seniority. "Seniority needs looking into," he said. A plebe in the PMA is a plebe throughout his schooling while in the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he studied, Cunanan said, a plebe is only a plebe for one year. Asked what edge Abadia had over Aguirre, Cunanan said that it is only in the "eyes of the President."

LP Moves To Consolidate Support for 1992 Polls

HK1704064791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 20

[By Ric M. Baliao]

[Text] The Liberal Party (LP) has launched a "Balik-Liberal" [back to liberal] movement to consolidate party support nationwide in preparation for the 1992 presidential elections.

The program was launched last weekend in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, hometown of the late President Elpidio Quirino, one of the party's founding fathers. Quirino served as vice president under Manuel Roxas, who founded the LP after the country attained independence and subsequently became the first president of the Philippine Republic The launching ceremonies were witnessed by LP leaders led by Senate and LP President Jovito Salonga, the party's expected presidential standard bearer, and Rep Raul Daza, LP secretary general.

A symbolic re-launching of the movement will be held in Roxas City on April 27, to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the party. Scheduled to lead the rites in Roxas City, aside from Salonga and other LP leaders, is Mrs Judy Araneta Roxas, widow of Sen Gerardo Roxas, son of the late president who also headed the LP as president until his death. Mrs Roxas is the chairperson of the LP steering committee and is being considered to lead the party's senatorial ticket in next year's elections. She is also being groomed to head the "Balik-Liberal" movement.

Antonio Villanueva, LP provincial party chairman in Ilocos Sur and proponent of the program, said the launching will be replicated in other parts of the country whenever the LP holds important meetings in those areas, in order to maximize its effectiveness as a vehicle for the revitalization of the party. Villanueva said the program seeks to "reawaken the latent desire of every Filipino to participate in political exercises."

"What better way is there to express this desire than to seek their old political roots and that of their fathers and grandfathers who were either leaders or stawarts of the Liberal Party whose history is inter-woven with that of our country?" he asked.

Meanwhile, a prayer rally will be sponsored soon by the movement to honor departed LP leaders from Ilocos Sur, Villanueva said. Among the honorees are former President Quirino, former congressmen Fidel Villanueva, Pablo Sanidad, and Floro Crisologo; former governors Perfecto Faypon, Eliseo Quirino and Evaristo Singson; former provincial board members Manuel Arjet, Felix Vergara, and Maximino Bello; former Vigan mayors Francisco Crisologo, Jose Singson, Lorenzo Formoso Sr, and Mariano Formoso; former mayors Timoteo Cachola of Narvacan, Jose Bonoan of Tagudin, and Jose Florendo of Sta Cruz; and former district chairman Maximino Savellano of Cabugao.

Aquino-Led Economic Authority Passes 1992 Budget

HK1804033491 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] The National Economic and Development Authority headed by President Aquino yesterday approved a budget of P [Philippine peso] 271.7 billion for 1992 submitted by the development budget coordinating committee [DBCC].

The budget level is P14.4 billion or 5.4% lower than the P286.1 billion expected to be approved by Congress for this year. This is the first time that the government eyed a progressively lower budget, as it had tended to propose higher general appropriations every year since its assumption into power in 1986.

Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, DBCC chairman, said the budget level implies a national government deficit of only P4.8 billion, P21.8 billion or 82% less than P26.6 billion programmed deficit for 1991. It is also P31.8 billion or 86.9% less than the P36.6 billion deficit in 1990.

The consolidated public sector deficit—which includes the deficits of the national government, government corporations and other public sector entities—is projected to go down to P35.7 billion from the P47.8 billion this year and P55.1 billion last year, the budget chief said. Projected service for next year is P112 billion P80 billion for interst and P32 billion for principal, Carague said.

The budget chief described the proposed level as an "extremely tight budget" that shows government's concern to increase national productivity by ensuring that the public sector deficit does not go out of bounds. He said the budget level was arrived at after extensive discussions within the DBCC that includes Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia, and Neda Director-General Cayetano Paderanga.

At the same time, Carague allayed fears that the tight budget level would have a "contractionary effect" on the economy. He explained the budget level had been so designed as to control goverment deficit and not to constrain business activities of the private sector "which after all comprises the larger part of the economy."

Carague said a revenue program of P248.7 billion has been estimated for 1992, P17.9 billion more than that of 1991. This consists of P217.7 billion in tax revenues, an increase of P13.6 billion the P204.1 billion expected this year: non-tax revenues of P28.5 billion up by P1.8 billion projected this year, and P2.5 billion in still to be identified revenues.

The top gainers in the proposed budget level are local government units (LGUs) which will receive P31.2 billion, P14.9 billion more than their P16.3 billion allocation this year. Carague said the incresed allocation to the LGUs is due to the anticipated passage this year of the Local Government Code which will devolve functions of national government units.

With the devolution, national government agencies will see a decline in their allocation next year, the budget chief said. From P141.3 billion this year, national agencies will get P120.6 billion next year, less by P20.7 billion or 14.6%.

Carague also said the proposed budget level was arrived at after considering the following major fiscal policies;

—The reduction of the consolidated public sector deficit;
—The devolution of the budget and consequently, higher budgetary allocation to LGUs;
—Continued improvement of the tax and revenue effort of government though pursuit of an equitable and progressive revenue system, and
—Improved efficiently in goverment spending, more flexible budgetary allocation, and rationalized fund release controls.

Estanislao Replys to World Bank Statement

HK1804032091 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The country will continue to borrow, even increase the yearly level of foreign borrowings, if only to sustain and consolidate a "growing economy," Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said yesterday.

The finance chief made the statement in reply to the opinion of the World Bank resident representative in Manila, Rolando Arrivillaga, who said the Philippines had already achieved its credit limit without developing a solid economy that could put a stop to the country's dependence on foreign loans.

Estanislao insisted the fiscal policies and programs of the government had been successful in creating the proper environment for a sound economy. He cited the Treasury bills' market, which of late has seen a downtrend in interest rates, from 30% three months back to 20% at present.

"Last Friday, the 91-day bills were already down to 22%, so it means the market has already reacted quite favorably to the fiscal situation in the Philippine government," said Estanislao. The finance chief added that the Philippines would continue to borrow as long as its keeps its house in order, like keeping the fiscal deficit to 2.5-3% of the gross domestic product.

Estanislao said the Philippines would have to increase its borrowing level every quarter. "After all, the economy is growing and we therefore should be able to increase our borrowings," he said. Estanislao agreed with Arrivillaga that the 9% import levy is a "painful way" to earn a revenue for the government, but said prospects for its reduction or lifting is "contingent" on Congress' passage of measures to ensure for the government a more permanent revenue base.

Saying that President Aquino has been doing her homework in pressing Congress to pass the measures, Estanislao said he expected some "development" regarding the levy within two to three weeks.

Another way to ensure a more lasting revenue base for the government is a more rationalized grant of tax exemption to investors by the Board of Investments [BOI]. Earlier, Estanislao complained that some P [Philippine peso] 10 billion of tax incentives were being indiscriminately given away by the BOI. Estanislao and Trade Secretary Peter Garrucho met with the President yesterday to devise a strategy to prod Congress to pass pending investment liberalization bills.

Military Rescues Businessman, Kills 3 Kidnappers

HK1704065191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 6

[By Charlie Senase]

[Text] Cotabato City—Government troops led by Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tucao Mastura Tuesday rescued kidnaped businessman Robinson Degala after a dawn battle with his abductors in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, the military said.

Three of Degala's kidnapers were killed and two others, including gang leader Commander Dinggoy, were captured. The identities of the three fatalities and the other prisoner were not given. The military said Mastura's group recovered a Garand rifle and a FAL assault rifle after the battle at Barangays Kabidtuan and Maydapa. Degala was abducted last March 30. Three other victims, including French priest Fr. Yves Caroff, remain in the custody of their kidnapers.

Meanwhile, a Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] rebel was killed, and a militiaman was injured in a firefight during the weekend at Barangay Languti, Carmen, North Cotabato, the military reported. Army Maj. Vivencio Bataga, 35th Infantry Battalion commander, said some 30 soliders and militiamen were on patrol when they chanced upon 20 rebels led by Commander Mamukan Akmad. The rebels retreated toward the Pulangi river, Bataga said.

Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief, who came here to assess the situation, commended the joint efforts of the military, police and civilian authorities in fighting kidnap-for-ransom syndicates. But Maj. Gen. Gumersindo Yap, Southern Command chief, said: "I'll not be happy until we get Kumander [Commander] Mubarak. With him killed, we'll have peace again here." The military has placed a P [Philippine pesos] 500,000 price on the head of Kumander Mubarak, suspected leader of the leading kidnap syndicate here.

Degala's kidnapers, the military said, were not part of Mubarak's gang. Mastura said the kidnapers had been under surveillance since they brought Degala for hiding in this town. Mastura had convinced Degala's relatives not to give given in to the kidnapers' ransom demand, reduced from the original P2 million to P20,000. Before the clash, Mastura took under his custody close relatives of the kidnapers, and used them as a leverage to pressure the abductors into releasing their victims.

Abadia, who proceeded to Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, suspected lair of Mubarak's gang, said "the development also goes well for the area, specially for the restoration of the people' confidence in the government." Abadia said he had received "surrender feelers" from the kidnapers, but withheld the identities of the intermediaries.

Asked about the possibility of granting amnesty to kidnapers, Abadia said, "we will still have to consult the local leaders." He did not elaborate. Abadia also directed local commanders to secure power transmission towers in Bukidnon and North Cotabato. The MNLF earlier threatened to topple National Power Corp. power lines in Mindanao.

In another development, Lt. Col. Domingo Reyes was relieved Tuesday as chief of the Cotabato Metropolitan District Command chief. Reyes, who was also anti-kidnapping task force deputy commander, was replaced by Police Maj. Isidro Lapena, former intelligence chief of the PNP [Philippine National Police] regional command in Davao City.

Ten Policemen Killed in Various Clashes

HK1804035291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Seven policemen, including two officers, two civilians and one rebel were killed, while four other policemen and a civilian guide were wounded, when New People's Army [NPA] guerrillas ambushed government forces in two separate incidents in northern and southern Philippines last Monday, the military reported yesterday.

The report said that a police team pursuing a group of NPA rebels they had encountered earlier were ambushed in a village of Abulug town in Cagayan. A police lieutenant, three policemen, two civilian guides and one rebel were killed, while another officer and a civilian guide were wounded in the clash.

On the same day, about 60 guerrillas fired at a police jeep, killing a police officer and two of his men in San Isidro, Davao Oriental.

Thailand

Asa Asks U.S. Envoy To Delay 301 Action

BK1704142591 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin this afternoon briefed newsmen on the U.S. Trade Representative's decision to apply sanctions against Thailand under Section 301 of the Trade Act. The minister said during the meeting with U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue today, he asked the United States to delay taking action on 26 April as that would affect bilateral relations and Thai export markets in the U.S. He said this is as important as the question of intellectual property rights and that Thailand must try to protect its interests. Exports to the U.S. account for 20 percent of Thailand's overall exports.

The foreign minister said Thailand is ready to hold candid talks with the U.S., although they hold different opinions. The minister believes frank talks will enable the two parties to arrive at satisfactory results. He said the prime minister has assigned the commerce minister to take charge of negotiations with the U.S. The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, will play a supporting role in close cooperation with the Commerce Ministry.

Asked about the attitude of the U.S. ambassador, the foreign minister said that after their discussion the ambassador said he understood Thailand's position. Yet, the ambassador could not promise Thailand anything because, like Thailand, the U.S. is facing domestic pressure. The foreign minister added that he sought discussion with the U.S. ambassador because he did not want the U.S. to think that Thailand is making a concession to U.S. demands. He wanted the U.S. to understand that Thailand was trying to compromise, as this would help Thailand to protect its trade interests in U.S. markets as well as intellectual property rights.

Asked about the Commerce Ministry's protest to the U.S. over the rice sale to the Philippines at reduced prices, Foreign Minister Asa said the U.S. move was not correct as the Philippines has been Thailand's traditional customer. He said the matter will be discussed with the United States later on.

Chances of Averting 301 Designation 'Slim'

BK1804021991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 91 pp B1, B10

[Text] Thailand has only a "slim" chance of avoiding designation as a target country under the Special 301 provision of the US Trade Act, but a source involved in the bilateral trade talks said there was still room for last-minute negotiations.

An inter-agency working group, chaired by USTR [U.S. Trade Representative] Ambassador Carla Hills, recently voted "unanimously" to designate Thailand a "priority foreign country" under the Speical 301 provision, the source confirmed. Hills and Cabinet-level advisers from several US Government agencies must approve the decision before April 26.

The source, however, said there was still room for talks and that efforts were being made to arrange a meeting between Deputy United Trade Representative Sandra Kristoff and senior Thai officials to resolve the trade disputes. The Foreign and Commerce ministries will today consult in an effort to forge a common position to present to the US negotiators at a bilateral meeting later this month.

The USTR will have to announce by April 26 if it wants to upgrade Thailand's status from the priority watch list. Under its existing designation, Thailand's trade practices are subject to regular reviews. If it is upgraded to a priority foreign country, the trade office will be able initiate trade petitions in areas of intellectual property protection and impose retaliatory actions against Thailand in seven months' time.

The source said the chances of avoiding inclusion on the priority foreign country list were only slim because the American trade office has come under increasing pressure from industry and Congress to upgrade "some of the four countries on the priority watch list". Thailand along with China, India and Brazil are included in the priority watch list. All of them are now under annual review. But the source added that China would be in a worse position given its poor protection for intellectual property rights.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday that he had conveyed Thailand's "deep" concern about the US threat to US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue when they met yesterday at the Foreign Ministry. Asa quoted the ambassador as saying that the internal pressure within the United States to force the Administration to take action against unfair trade practices of some countries had escalated. According to Asa, the ambassador has asked him to understand the US's position.

The minister said he told O'Donohue that the Thai government was also under pressure from interest groups to resist the US demands. "On the intellectual property rights issues, it is time that Thailand and the US recognized the constraints on each other," Asa said.

Washington has asked Thailand to enforce the copyright law "aggressively" to provide effective and adequate protection to US audio and video entertainment works as well as books and computer softwares. It also wanted Bangkok to improve proposed provisions to the amended patent laws and pass them this year.

Specifically, the US wanted Thailand to extend the transitional patent protection period, meaning manufacturers of new drugs who are still in the process of applying for patent registration in the United States will be permitted to file patent protection requests with the Thai Commercial Registration Department. The retroactive effect has been one of Thailand's major concerns because it fears that, if granted, drugs prices might shoot up if the move is approved.

Washington also pushed Thailand to narrow the conditions under which the government can force patentees to liense their rights to national emergency situations. The amended patent bill allows the government to force patentees to allow others to produce the patented products if it can be proved that they do not use the rights.

A senior government source said that Thailand has been placed in a difficult positon with the April 26 deadline drawing nearer and in the face of demands that it strengthen copyright enforcement, and improve and pass the amended patent bill to the National Assembly this year to meet the US demands. The official added the threat amounted to the US having "no good faith" in resolving the problems. If designated, Thailand would only serve as a "test case" for the US. "The US Administration should take into account possible political implications in Thailand if it has to yield to the US demand," he added.

Commerce Minister Amaet Sila-on, Foreign Minister Asa as well as other Thai officials, have said on several occasions that Thailand has made improvements on intellectual property protection. They remain optimistic that Thailand would still have several months to implement further reforms before the USTR is compelled to initiate investigations to avoid US retaliation regardless of whether it is designated a priority foreign country. Nevertheless, Thailand is extremely concerned about its image abroad and would not like to be included in the priority foreign country list, an observer said.

Thailand has already been the subject of two trade petitions filed by the International Intellectual Property Alliance, the Motion Picture Export Association of American and the Recording Industry Association of America on copyright enforcement and by the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association on drug patent infringements.

The USTR will have to complete the investigation on the copyright enforcement by December 21, 1991 and on the patent violation case by March 15, 1992. However, if Thailand is designated as a priority foreign country under the Special 301 of the US trade act, the USTR will have 30 days or until May 26 to decide whether to initiate new cases against Thailand in regards to intellectual property protection.

These new cases may be the same as those filed by the industry under the regular 301 procedure. But the USTR will have to complete the investigation and decide to retaliate within six months'. The deadline for the completion of the investigation under this track is not later than Nov 26 this year.

Ukrit Briefs U.S. Envoy on Democratic Efforts

BK1804052891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] For nearly 60 years, Thailand has exerted efforts to establish a democratic system, but during some periods it is necessary to have such institutions as the present National Assembly and government in order to make the ruling format suitable for Thai people. Professor Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, chairman of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA], made this statement to reporters following courtesy calls made by the secretary general of the ASEAN Parliamentary Organization and the U.S. ambassador to Thailand yesterday afternoon.

[Begin Ukrit recording] Our ways of life are not the same as those of Europeans or Americans, therefore it would be impossible for us to always have an elected government when the country is facing a downturn. For the survival of the country and its people, it is therefore necessary to do something to save the nation. Thailand has nothing against Western-style democracy. We have consistently exerted our efforts for democracy for nearly 60 years, but during some periods it is necessary for us to have such bodies as the present National Assembly and government, which have not been formed because of some people's desires, but out of necessity. They understood these points, due to the fact that Thailand is a sovereign and independent country. They regard us as a friend, but the countries' policies is another matter. [end recording]

USSR Requests Support on ASEAN Partnership

BK1804074991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek reported that Anatoily Valkov, Soviet ambassador to Thailand, met with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin this morning on the Soviet Union's desire to become a dialogue parter with ASEAN, in the same manner as the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community.

In this regard, the Soviet Union asked for support from Thailand. The Thai foreign minister told the Soviet envoy that Thailand does not oppose the Soviet proposal, but the issue must be put up for discussion in the meeting of ASEAN senior officials to be held in May this year.

Polish Minister on Expansion of Economic Ties

BK1704012791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Poland wants to expand trade and economic relations with Thailand, Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski said yesterday.

Poland, which has undertaken sweeping reforms towards a market economy, is also seeking further, wide-ranging economic cooperation with Bangkok, and has urged that the two governments create an atmosphere conducive to active exchanges between the two private sectors.

Mr Majewski yesterday concluded a three-day visit to Thailand, during which he met Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on. The Polish minister told a press conference yesterday that ample opportunities remain to be explored, and Thailand is interested in importing steel, cement, fertiliser and chemicals from Poland. The bilateral trade turnover in 1990 totalled about US$1,000 million, with the balance in Poland's favour.

Before arriving in Bangkok, Mr Majewski visited Vietnam in the first high-ranking exchange with Hanoi after the crumbling of socialism in Eastern Europe. The message from Warsaw to Hanoi is that both sides have to review relations. An agreement on hard currency dealings was also concluded between Poland and Vietnam, replacing the former barter trade agreement.

On Cambodia, the deputy foreign minister said Poland's position was similar to that of Thailand.

Lao Deputy Premier Arrives for Official Visit

BK1704151691 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Phoun Sipaseut arrived for an official visit to Thailand to confer the highest Lao medal on Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, who will be the first foreigner to receive the medal.

The first such medal was conferred on former Lao President Prince Souphanouvong. The purpose of the conferring of the medal is to strengthen Thai-Lao relations and to remember the princess' visit to Laos in March last year. The medal will be conferred this afternoon at Chitlada Palace.

Before that, the Lao deputy prime minister and foreign minister will hold official consultations with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin on the border area, which was the purpose of General Suchinda Khraprayun's earlier visit to Laos.

[Begin Phoun recording, in progress] ... to exchange views and pursue talks on issues concerning bilateral relations and cooperation that were raised by General Suchinda during his visit to Laos. [end recording]

Confers Medal of Honor on Princess

BK1704152491 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] At Barom Phiman Hall in the Grand Palace today, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon granted an audience to Phoun Sipaseut, Lao deputy prime minister and foreign minister, accompanied by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin. During the audience, the Lao deputy prime minister conferred upon the princess the Lao Gold Medal of Honor. This medal is the highest Lao decoration, newly established for individuals who contribute to world peace and promote international cooperation and solidarity with the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The first such medal was conferred upon President Prince Souphanouvong in 1989. Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon is the second person to receive the medal, which is being given in honor of her efforts to strengthen friendly relations between Thailand and Laos. The Lao deputy prime minister was accompanied on the occasion by his wife and delegation. The visitors were also hosted by the princess at a dinner.

Security, Economic Committees Formed With Laos

BK1804015791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 91 p A4

[Text] Thailand and Laos agreed yesterday to establish two major joint committees to separately oversee security and economic and social cooperation between the two countries, Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun said yesterday.

The new committees, which are similar to the cooperative apparatus Thailand has with Malysia, would replace the existing Thai-Lao Border Policy Implementation committee which oversees both the security and economic aspects.

Wichian said the newly-established committees would help the two countries to explore and expand their scope of cooperation for greater mutual benefit. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and his visiting Lao counterpart Phoun Sipaseut.

Wichian said the new joint committee on social and economic cooperation would be co-chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries and the security committee would be co-chaired by representativee of the Thai and Lao armies. Wichian said further discussion was needed to determine what level of ranking army officers would co-chair the joint security committee.

Asa and Phoun agreed that the joint social and economic committee would be entrusted with looking after overall cooperation regarding trade, investment, tourism, technology and in the field of education. However, the joint subcommittee on boundary demarcation which handled the negotiations to settle territorial disputes and the joint provincial-level committee to oversee cross-border activities would continue with their present functions.

Wichian said Phoun also extended an invitation to Asa to visit Laos and the latter agreed in principle. Informed sources said the visit could take place some time in May. The deputy foreign minister also said the government would soon finalize its assistance programme worth Bt [baht] 100 million for the economic and social development of Laos.

Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun told THE NATION that the aid package given to Laos would be similar to that which Japan granted to Thailand through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which required recipients to submit project plans before they could draw funds from the package.

Finance Minister Suthi Singsane last week visited Laos to discuss the package in detail with his Laotian counterpart Souphanouvong and asked the Laotian side to draw up a project plan as soon as possible.

Wiraphong said the government wants this substantive programme to be completed in time to be included in the government's budget bill for 1992, expected to be submitted to the National Assembly for approval later this year.

Phoun is on a three-day visit to Thailand which started yesterday to present HRH [Her Royal Highness] Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon with Lao's highest award in recognition of her significant contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties between the two countries.

The princess led an official delegation on a visit to Laos in March last year. The visit, the first by a member of the Thai Royal Family in present times, was regarded highly by Lao leaders who considered it a significant step in forging closer ties between the two nations.

The Lao minister was later granted an audience by the princess at Chitlada Palace. She was presented with a jewel encrusted gold medal—Riaen Come Kietikhun. He is scheduled to be granted an audience by His Majesty the King at the Chitlada Palace today. He would later meet Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, National Peacekeeping Committee chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and his deputy Gen Suchinda Khraprayun before leaving for Phattaya in the evening. Phoun and his delegation will return home on Friday.

Minister: Police To Stay Under Interior Ministry

BK1704144891 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said during an interview with newsmen this morning that he had a meeting with Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat over the issue of transferring the Police Department to the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry, an issue that has become a controversy creating confusion among the general public and police officers.

The interior minister said the proposal was simply a research paper sent by the National Defense College to study the possibility of putting the Police Department under the Defense Ministry. It was only an analysis work with no plans for application. In his capacity as interior minister, Gen. Itsaraphong asserted that the Police Department will remain under the Interior Ministry because it is an important apparatus in solving difficulties and providing safety for the Thai people.

Asked whether the police chief would be dismissed, transferred, or investigated over the incident, the interior minister said no action whatsoever would be taken against the police chief.

Interior Minister Rebukes Police Chief Over Leak

BK1804034391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has reportedly rebuked Police Department chief Sawat Amonwiwat for allegedly leaking classified documents on the controversial proposal to transfer the police force to the Defence Ministry. The minister reportedly grilled the police chief twice in as many days over the stormy issue.

After disappearing behind the closed door of Gen Itsarasphong's office for more than an hour yesterday, Pol Gen [Police General] Sawat reportedly sneaked out of the minister's room to evade an army of reporters outside. The police chief was also summoned to a three-hour meeting with Gen Itsaraphong on Tuesday evening. He said he could no longer comment on the issue because "I was just given a (verbal) assault". When reporters asked why he had not defended himself, Pol Gen Sawat said: "I did, but I was kicked between my legs so hard that I could not cry."

Pol Gen Sawat said he received written instructions from the Interior Ministry to look into the possibility of transferring the Police Department to the jurisdiction of the Defence Ministry. However, top military officers—including Gen Itsaraphong—repeatedly denied any such instruction. Gen Itsaraphong said he had no plans to put the Police Department under the Defence Ministry.

Gen Itsaraphong, after meeting with Pol Gen Sawat yesterday, admitted he had questioned Pol Gen Sawat on the issue. He said that the documents—detailing an organisational structure in which the Police Department comes under the Defence Ministry as part of the Armed Forces—were classified. They should not have been made public, he said.

The minister said he had no plan to transfer the Police Department to the Defence Ministry, but had given the documents to the Police Department to evaluate. He said the documents were part of a thesis prepared by the National Defence College which has been researching several issues of national importance to recommend to the Government. "Since the paper deals with the Police Department, I sent them for the police to study to determine whether the plan is feasible," Gen Itsaraphong said.

NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] deputy chairman and Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin also insisted the document was an academic thesis and the Interior Minister and the NPKC has no intention of transferring the Police Department to the Defence Ministry.

Asked if such a proposal was not an attempt to seize all power and put it under the military, ACM Kaset said that he did not think it was appropriate to place the police with the military. "This only exists in a few countries and Thailand will not be like that," ACM Kaset said. "This news (about the transfer) was leaked to create chaos for the heck of it. Really, there is nothing to it," ACM Kaset said.

Gen Itsaraphong said he had instructed Pol Gen Sawat to treat the documents as highly classified. But the Interior Minister said there would not be any disciplinary action against Pol Gen Sawat.

The documents in question purportedly show that NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has considered the controversial transfer plan and ordered the scheme to be submitted to the Interior Ministry to analyse its possible implementation.

Deputy permanent interior secretary Chuwong Chayabut, on behalf of the permanent secretary, ordered the police chief to reply to the proposal by last Monday. Mr Chuwong purportedly acted on Gen Itsaraphong's instructions.

The plan, proposed by Special Warfare commander Lt-Gen Kachon Ramanwong, would remove the police force from under the Interior Ministry and make it part of the armed forces under the Defence Ministry. Under the plan, the police would have nine bureaus: Investigation, Suppression, Metropolitan, Narcotics Suppression, Provincial Police Regions 1-4, Border Patrol Police, Special Operations Unit, Special Operations and the Office of the Police Force. The Special Operations Bureau would have 10 departments: Communications, Welfare, Medical, Quartermasters, Training, Inspector-General, Information, Aviation, Engineers and Royal Aide Police.

ACM Kaset said he did not know if the document was proposed by the commander of the Special Warfare Unit and only knew it was a thesis reflecting the thinking of an academic for improving the image of the police force. "I disagree with the proposal because the work of the police and the Armed Forces is not the same. Soldiers have the duty of protecting the country but the police look after domestic peace. Their tasks are so different, how can they be combined?" ACM Kaset asked.

Asked if the NPKC would accept the proposals for improving the Police Department, ACM Kaset said that it would not. However, he added: "We just study their proposals to see if they fit our country. If they do we will accept them. But at this time we think the proposals are impossible." He said the Interior Minister keeps in close consultation with the police chief and there should be no problems of confusion and lost morale because of the incident. Asked if someone was trying to get the police and the military into a conflict, the air force commander said he does not know. Soldiers do not know what they should confront the police for, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin, who is in charge of security and foreign affairs, disagrees with the idea of putting the Police Department under the Defence Ministry. The former national police chief says the duties are too different.

Asked if this would turn into a conflict if it became a policy of the NPKC, Pol Gen Phao said Gen Itsaraphong, who is secretary- general of the NPKC, had denied it as untrue. "Regardless of what Pol Gen Sawat had said, when his superior (Gen Itsaraphong) denied it the matter should end. Let's talk about something else," he said.

Army Radio Attacks Police on 'Godfather' Figures

BK1704053491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] An army-run radio programme launched an unexpected attack on the Police Department yesterday for its failure to get rid of "godfathers," and said "drastic action" should be taken to wipe out notoriously influential figures.

The commentary by the Sayamanussati programme followed reports that the military was seeking to control the police force. The military denied the reports but the Police Department confirmed them.

The attack also coincided with rumours that the April 5 gangland- style slaying of boxing tycoon Khlaeo Thanikun, who was gunned down in a daring highway assault by heavily-armed gunmen, was part of an alleged top-secret policy to eliminate "blacklisted" godfathers.

The commentary, broadcast by over 100 military-run radio stations nationwide, cited Klaeo's case to back the military criticism against the performance of police. "The killing of Bangkok's No. 1 godfather was very daring. The gunmen acted as if this country is lawless," the commentary said.

While condemning Khlaeo's murder, the Supreme Command's radio programme said "drastic action" should be taken to deal with serious crimes. "If law enforcers cannot keep influential people in check, drastic action may be the only choice," it said. It was not clear whether the military wanted to take such action itself or was asking the Police Department to do so.

The commentary blamed serious crimes on "godfathers" and their conflict of interests in underground businesses. "Agents, brokers and companies with guns for hire have enjoyed huge amounts of income that is circulating in illegal businesses. The people can't live a normal life if this situation is allowed to continue. If the law enforcers are not serious, maybe we have to let the godfathers kill each other until they become extinct," it said.

The attack was the first against Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat by the military since it seized power on Feb 23. The National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] appointed Sawat as one of the NPKC's four deputy chairmen after the coup. Sawat apparently angered Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, the NPKC secretary-general, by confirming that there were moves to put the Police Department under the Defence Ministry's control.

Government Defends Moves Against State Unions

BK1704015191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Concerned over possible international repercussions, the Government yesterday instructed key Thai embassies abroad to clarify the new State Enterprise Labour Relations Law to get the "right message" across to international labour organisations.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said the ministry yesterday sent a five-page explanatory note to Thai embassies, including the one in Geneva, where the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has its headquarters. Embassies which received the note included those in New York, Germany, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and throughout Europe.

But Telephone Organisation of Thailand (TOT) President Mit Charoenwan said yesterday that the Government's note contained a number of distortions.

Mr Asa said the Government was concerned that Thai labour representatives "may not convey the correct version (of the law) and there may be a negative reaction from the outside. The points need to be explained fully to the international labour organisations. Once things have been explained fully we believe that they will begin to understand," the minister said.

"We have instructed our people to explain the version of the law itself and we do hope that our friends will understand the correct version of what is contained in the bill. Hopefully they will not do something about it, they would not react negatively," Mr Asa said.

Before the Act was passed, Thai labour congresses warned of possible international repercussions following passage of the legislation, saying it would dissolve their unions. Under the new legislation, state enterprise workers have the right to form "associations" and submit demands concerning welfare to their state enterprise committee comprised of representatives from management and labour. If an agreement cannot be reached, the matter can be submitted to a national committee comprised predominantly of government officials.

The International Confederation of Trade Unions has said that it is monitoring the Thai situation closely and did not rule out the possibility of filing a complaint with the ILO. The possibility of further labour action also exists.

In the note, the Government emphasised that the new law is not aimed at "depriving state enterprise workers of their basic rights or eliminating the union movement but at increasing the efficiency of the state enterprises."

The Government argued that state enterprises "do not belong exclusively either to the public sector or the private sector. On the one hand they are owned by the Government; on the other hand they are supposed to be run like private companies. Consequently, what is needed is specific and separate legislation that is tailored to meet the needs of the state enterprises," the note said. "The new law provides for an objective and systematic process that the state enterprise workers could use to defend and advance their rights and benefits regarding their work," it said.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said that Thailand has not ratified ILO conventions 87, 98 and 151 which guarantee workers' basic rights of association and collective bargaining. Under these circumstances, the ILO cannot take action against Thailand but it could ask a committee to examine the law to see if the country had violated the "spirit" of the ILO charter.

Asked about a labour complaint that workers' representatives were outnumbered in the national committee and therefore this excluded effective bargaining, a senior Foreign Ministry official explaned that the "intent of this system is not based on the premise of confrontation. "The focus is on the negotiating process itself. Through this process each side can submit its point of view and a consensus could be formed which should be agreeable to all parties concerned. In the past employees or workers could only submit their petitions to the management but they could not negotiate with the management," the official said, repeating a portion of the Government's statement. "And on questions of financial implications the Finance Ministry will have the final ruling on their petitions."

But under the new system, labour representatives of local state enterprise committees can negotiate, the Foreign Ministry official said. And if they are not satisfied, they can raise this matter with the national committee, he added. Mr Mit, however, said the statement contained distortions. He said that under the previous Labour Relations Act, workers had full rights to collective bargaining. "When workers submit their complaint or suggestions to management, the management would be forced to negotiate with worker's representatives within three days, (according to the previous law). An agreement of both sides would be registered at the Labour Department."

If both sides cannot reach an agreement, the case would be submitted to the tripartite Labour Relations Committee, comprised of five members from government, labour and the Employers' Confederation of Thailand.

"If workers are not satisfied with the committee's decision, they can appeal to the Labour Court (in cases of complaints of unfair treatment). However, the case would be passed for final decision by the Cabinet if the complaints or suggestions concern workers' compensation," Mr Mit said.

He also argued that the Government had tried to portray the state enterprises' committees and the national comittee as being "tripartite" when in fact they were not.

Concerning these issues, the government statement said:

"The new law further provides for the establishment in each state enterprise of a tripartite labour relations committee with equal representation of about three to seven persons from the management and the workers and headed by a neutral member from the board of the state enterprise."

Mr Mit questioned how a member of the board of a state enterprise could be "neutral." He also pointed out that the membership of the national State Enterprise Labour Relations Committee was comprised primarily of government officials. These circumstances would affect collective bargaining, Mr Mit said.

Mr Asa said the Government believed that one previous problem of state enterprises was their opposition to privatisation.

Deputy Premier Proposes Vote-Buying Mechanism

BK1404050291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[From the Political Desk]

[Text] An authority independent of the government and Parliament should be established under the new constitution with enough power to curb vote-buying in elections and disqualify Cabinet members and MPs [members of parliament] whom it rules to be dishonest, Deputy Premier Michai Ruchuphan has proposed.

Michai, who is also the chairman of the 20-member committee drafting the new constitution, told THE NATION on Thursday that if the mechanism was accepted and established, the system should be able to solve serious defects by itself, reducing the possibility of future coups. He said the Constitutional Tribunal, which now has limited power in disqualifying MPs, may be upgraded to become the independent body but the process of selection and appointment of its members must be revamped. Under the previous constitution, the tribunal was chaired by the Parliament president and composed of the chief judge of the Supreme Court, the director general of the Public Prosecutions Department and a number of qualified outsiders.

The model, which he is pondering, is an alternative to denying MPs the right to become Cabinet members under the so-called separation of powers proposal, he said. But Michai said this option on the separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches has not been ruled out as yet.

In the exclusive interview, Michai also voiced reservations about the notion that the Constitution should leave open the question of whether the prime minister should be politically affiliated. "If we adhere to the political party system, then we can't have a non-partisan figure coming from nowhere to assume the premiership. Under that system, politicians, including candidates to the premiership, must campaign for the voters' support for their platforms to solve national problems," he said. A non-partisan figure, he added, is not one to participate in election campaigns and would not have a chance of proposing his policies to the public, Michai said.

Michai also rejected the proposal that would allow government officials to become Cabinet members under the proposed separation of powers system. "We should no longer give any thought to something which is obsolete and unrealistic. We may borrow technocrats from time to time, but the fact is that they cannot work full time as Cabinet members," he said.

Asked about a report that National Peacekeeping Council Deputy Chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun had asked the committee members to incorporate the idea of separation of powers in the new constitution, Michai said Suchinda's point was to break the vicious political cycle of the past where unscrupulous politicians bought their way into the House and the Cabinet and cheated the people.

"If there are other effective ways of solving the problem, then separation of powers may become redundant," he said.

Even if the barring of MPs from the executive branch is to be adopted, he said, a mechanism must be worked out to maintain the link between the two branches. "It's impossible for the two institutes not to have links at all," he said, adding that the executive branch also requires a semblance of public mandate. He said he has not given serious thought to the option because he is exploring the other avenue.

Michai, who sounded pre-occupied with exploring the other option at this stage, said that the Constitutional Tribunal may be upgraded to become the independent body but the major question is who should nominate members of the newly-upgraded organization to make it highly qualified and acceptable.

The House should not be allowed to nominate members to the independent body, as otherwise it could be accused of being affiliated with political parties and the odds in that case would be high that government parties would push through their nominations, he said. In any case, the nominees should be referred to the House of Representatives for endorsement, lest the body is accused of having no public mandate. The independent body must also have more legal powers to check dirty politics inside and outside Parliament effectively.

"In future, this organization can develop into a system of ombudsmen empowered to correct all political misconducts which may lead to power seizure," he said. Citing an example, he said the tribunal should not need a "bribery receipt" to make its ruling on misconduct by either a minister or an MP. A ruling by the body to disqualify an MP should not have to be unanimous to become effective, he said. It should also be empowered to take action against Cabinet members, and not only MPs, he added.

The authority should also be empowered to receive and rule on complaints on election rigging, he added. At present, such complaints have to be filed with local police officials.

Michai also categorically denied a published report that he had already drawn up a draft constitution to be imposed on the new constitution now being considered. The deputy premier also objected to the proposal that senators should be elected. "In that case, senators won't be different from MPs and there will be no need to have two Houses," he said.

He proposed that senators should be nominated by both non- governmental agencies (NGOs) and government agencies which have been established and recognized by society. They may include the Board of Trade, the Federation of Thai Industries and some press associations, he added.

"For instance, each professional institute may nominate 10 people to the house which will pick five out of the number. This way, the Senate will have the mandate, whereas the election of senators would involve political jockeying and partisan interests," he said. He added that the powers of such a Senate should be inceased in checking the legislative work of the House. And yet senatorial powers should still be less than those of the House, whose members are directly elected by the people, he added.

He also found fault with the following ideas:

—Proportional representation, which was proposed by National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin. Under this proposal, each voter will cast his ballot for only one political ticket in a province-wide constituency and the votes each team garners will determine how many of their candidates will become MPs. Each party must field as many candidates as the vacant seats given the provinces. The calculation will be based on the principle of proportional votes and the party must list them in such a way that those on top will be the priorities to be elected. But Michai said that the system may prompt influential and affluent candidates to "buy" the top places on the ticket.

—The system to stabilize the government by denying MPs' right to call for a no-confidence debate against individual Cabinet members. Under the proposed system, MPs have the right to call for the debate only against the prime minister and the entire Cabinet. And if the MPs do not win the no-confidence vote, they would have to pay the price of losing their seats in the House. Michai said the pitfall in depriving the MPs' right to grill individual ministers is that the Cabinet cannot take full responsibility for each and every minister's private behaviour. The Cabinet, he said, will be held responsible if any policy is proven wrong, he added. According to the proposal, the punishment for MPs who lose in the no-confidence vote would result in no member of the House seeking to file such a motion. After all, those who initiate the censure move are usually in the minority opposition corner, he said.

Vietnam

AFP: Release of South's POW's Depends on U.S.

BK1804083191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 18 Apr 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Excerpt] Hanoi, April 18 (AFP)—Freedom for up to 200 former officials of the defeated South Vietnamese Government, still imprisoned 16 years after the Vietnam war, may depend in part on future U.S. policy towards Hanoi.

"The small number of prisoners remaining in the camps will be released sooner or later, but that will depend on their attitude," a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said Thursday, just before the arrival of U.S. General John Vessey.

Gen. Vessey, charged with investigating the fate of American soldiers listed as Missing In Action (MIA) since the war ended in 1975, is to discuss humanitarian problems between the two countries when he arrives Friday. "Obviously, the fact that the United States continues its hostile policy toward Vietnam forces us to prudently look at the issue," the spokesman said.

The United States has said there are 100 to 200 former Saigon government officials still imprisoned in Vietnamese re-education camps. Washington has made their release one of its conditions for normalizing relations between the two countries. The United States cut off diplomatic contact with Vietnam and imposed an economic embargo in 1975.

"The Vietnamese Government, under its policy of clemency, has already released most of the prisoners detained in camps," the spokesman said. Hanoi released thousands of people in 1987 and 1988, including a number of southerners, and reduced sentences for others.

Gen. Vessey is to spend Friday and Saturday in Hanoi as U.S. President George Bush's special envoy, to discuss humanitarian and other issues. This is the third visit to Vietnam by Gen. Vessey, who was designated by former U.S. president Ronald Reagan to handle the MIA and Prisoner of War (POW) issue.

The two countries have worked together to determine the fate of MIAS, and since 1987 Vietnam has returned to the United States the remains of 300 people listed as MIA. According to U.S. military statistics, 2,353 soldiers disappeared in Indochina during the war, including 1,719 in Vietnam.

Another point of contention between the two sides is U.S. insistence that Hanoi accept a peace plan drafted by the five U.N. Security Council powers to solve the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict. Hanoi implicitly rejected the condition Monday and demanded normalization with Washington as a precondition to helping solve the Cambodian issue. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on MIA, Trade Embargo Issues

BK1804104291 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Speaking at the regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, a spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, Mrs. Ho The Lan, said that General John Vessey, special envoy of the U.S. President, would come to Vietnam. This will be the third time he has come to Vietnam and the first meeting between him and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to discuss humanitarian issues of Vietnam and the United States.

Mrs. Ho The Lan said each meeting obtained certain results. Vietnam hopes that this time will bring back results and promote the solving of MIA issue and other humanitarian issues of the two sides. Mrs. Ho The Lan said the MIA issue is a humanitarian issue. The Vietnamese side has done its best and cooperated with the U.S. side to solve this issue. The U.S. side on many occasions highly valued and thanked the effort made by the Vietnamese Government. She also said that the proposal for the establishment of the U.S. office in Hanoi to solve the MIA issue has been accepted by the Vietnamese side at a meeting in Washington in October 1990. So far the two sides have not yet held any concrete session. This time, she said the two sides may exchange the issues of mutual concern.

At the conference Mrs. Ho The Lan made known that U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski on April 10 put forth a draft bill at the U.S. Congress urging the administration to lift the embargo against Vietnam. She said that the extension of U.S. embargo against Vietnam is variant to international economic and political situation at present. It runs counter to the aspirations of many circles in the U.S. society, especially the business circles. It is being criticized by public opinion in the United States and even at the U.S. Congress.

Mrs. Ho The Lan reported that Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai will arrive in Bangkok in the near future for consultations between the two foreign ministries at deputy foreign ministerial level. At this consultative meeting the two sides will discuss and exchange views on visits by higher level leaders of the two countries and developments around the Cambodian issue.

Soviet Administrative Affairs Delegation Visits

BK1504151891 Hanoi VNA in English 1326 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—A delegation of the Commission for Administrative Affairs of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee led by V. Karpov, head of its secretariat, made a working visit to Vietnam from 9-15 April.

While here, the guests were received by Vu Oanh, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and had working sessions with officials of the commission for financial and administrative affairs of the C.P.V Central Committee. They also visited a number of cultural and economic establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the southwestern province of Tay Nimh.

Do Muoi Receives Visiting Japanese Businessmen

BK1804080591 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received here on April 16 Takao Ikama, president of the Dai O Paper Company, and Keiji Oda, president of the Kanematsu Company, during a current visit to Vietnam.

Speaking at the reception Takao Ikama and Keiji Oda expressed their wishes for cooperation with Vietnam in paper and other light industries. The Vietnamese chairman expressed his desire to promote the economic and commercial relations between the two countries on the basis of equality, bilateral interests and respect for each other's sovereignty. Earlier, Minister of Light Industry Dang Vu Chu had working session with the Japanese guests on the cooperation between their companies and the Vietnamese paper industry.

The Japanese businessmen also had working sessions with the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Commerce; the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism; the State Planning Commission; the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; and the State Bank to study Vietnam's economic development orientation and its law on foreign investment, and other issues relating to the economic and commercial cooperation between Vietnam and foreign countries.

During the visit, the Japanese Companies Kanematsu and Seiho in coordination with the Textile Import and Export Service (TEXTIMEX) and the Dong Xuan Textile Factory will hold a seminar exhibition on Japanese textile machines in Hanoi.

Japanese Businessmen Discuss Oil Exploration

BK1204135091 Hanoi VNA in English 1220 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—A delegation of the two Japanese companies Mitsubishi Oil (MOC) and Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) led by Mr. Kikuo Yamada, President of the MOC, has arrived here recently to inquire into the possibility of cooperation with Vietnam in oil exploration, exploitation and processing.

The Japanese guests exchanged views with leading officials of the state planning commission, the state committee for cooperation and investment, the heavy industry ministry, and the Vietnam Oil and Gas Company. The delegation was received on April 11 by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi.

Radio on Tasks of Militia, Self-Defense Forces

BK1804062191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Article by Thai Thanh Binh: "Safeguarding Public Security and Order at the Grass Roots: A Basic Task of the Militia and Self-Defense Forces at Present"]

[Text] One of the fundamental tasks of the militia and self-defense forces, which was stipulated by the Council of Ministers in the militia and self-defense forces' statutes promulgated by decree number 29-HDBT on 29 January 1990, is to coordinate with the people's public security forces and other forces of dictatorship to safeguard political security and public order and safety, and to protect the party, administration, people's life and property, and assets of collectives, the state, and the army in localities.

Joint circular 785-QPNV dated 30 June 1989 of the Defense and Interior Ministries also specifies that militia and self-defense forces and public security forces of villages and hamlets which defend agencies and factories, are the people's core forces to assure security and order at the grass roots. As a result, the questions of providing guidance for militia and self-defense forces and raising their operational effectiveness in safeguarding well security and order at the grass roots, are of paramount significance and a pressing requirement of the present situation.

A review of militia and self-defense forces' operational results in 1990 reveals that although their operations were neither uniform nor good enough, their movement in general as compared to 1989 and earlier has considerably changed in various respects. In many localities, militia and self-defense forces' primary units have step by step affirmed their key role in safeguarding security and order, thus winning the confidence of party committees, the administration, and the people.

Last year, militia and self-defense forces in localities were mobilized for patrol and guard duties and target defense, involving 1.24 million members. Together with the public security forces and the people, they detected and dealt with 22,000 cases of violations of order and security mainly in cities and urban areas. In coastal and border provinces, they coordinated with other forces to prevent 454 cases of illegal border crossings and sea escapes, involving 8,450 people.

In central highland provinces, some 18,000 militia and self-defense forces' members were mobilized to search for and mop up the FULRO [United Front for the Struggle of the Oppressed Races] force, joined in 24 battles, put 36 FULRO members out of action, and seized 11 assorted weapons.

In construction and combat and security operations, many model individuals and units of militia and self-defense forces have carried out practical and effective exploits. Those units in Hoai Huong and Hoai Nhon villages, Binh Dinh Province, for many years in a row arrested many cases of sea escape attempts. Self-defense forces of the state-run fishing enterprise in Kien Giang Province arrested 101 foreign ships which were encroaching on our waters. Self-defense forces of the General Corporation of Rubber arrested many cases of violations against socialist assets, recovering more than 253 tonnes of latex worth more than 650 million dong.

However, strong leadership has not been exercised to shift the activities of militia and self-defense forces to the task of assuring security and order. In some localities, the organization and use of militia and self-defense forces are still at variance with their function and mission, and there still are many loopholes in the management of the forces and their weapons and equipment. As no satisfactory system and policies of remuneration are available for the militia and self-defense forces, we are still unable to mobilize and encourage the movement.

In order to promptly overcome the aforementioned deviations, and create vigorous changes in the militia and self-defense forces' activities to assure security and order at the grass roots, it is necessary to focus on solving the following problems:

1. We should regularly emphasize the education of militia and self-defense forces' cadres and combatants on the enemy's current multifaceted plots and maneuvers of sabotage . Once security and order has been firmly maintained, it serves mainly as a base to prevent enemy sabotage. We should attentively foster militia and self-defense cadres and combatants awareness and responsibility; develop their role in assuring security and order at the grass roots; and build, train, and operate militia and self-defense forces in accordance with their statutes and interministerial circular number 785-QPNV.

2. Facts have shown that the situation of security, order, and public safety in critical and targeted areas along the border and coast, on islands, and in cities and towns usually develops in a very complicated manner. As a result, leadership and guidance should be concentrated appropriately in these areas, and experiences should be reviewed preliminarily and generally. Particularly, there should be measures to provide guidance for resolving organizational and operational problems and troubles between militia and self-defense forces and other forces, such as the public security force, civil guards at offices, and taxation and custom forces, in order to develop the integrated strength of all organizations and forces in defending security and order at the grass roots.

3. All villages, city wards, agencies, factories, and enterprises should institute plans and projects for assuring security and order. These plans will be recommended by the public security and military agencies. Adequate training should be conducted periodically to ensure that forces are constantly ready to cope with unexpected situations that are likely to occur.

4. We should have suitable systems and policies to remunerate all forces regardless of whether they are public security forces, civil guards, or militia and self-defense forces. All citizens who have made positive contributions to the security and order movement should be mobilized and encouraged promptly by both material and moral incentives according to state systems and policies and depending on the realistic capability of each locality and primary installation. The quality of militia and self-defense forces' operations in defending security, order, and public safety cannot be separated from party committee leadership, the operational control of the administration, and coordination of activities among mass organizations and forces. As a result, if given proper care and concern, the movement will certainly improve even more vigorously and practically.

Construction Ministry Studies Rural Development

BK1704132791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The first seminar on rural development was held on 15 April 1991 by the Ministry of Construction to determine the direction of rural development; coordinate programs, plans, and policies; and intensify programs based on the experience gained from pilot project VIE/86/020 in some villages.

Among the participants were Dam Quang Trung, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State; more than 130 representatives from economic sectors and branches; peasant associations; the management staff of production development and rural infrastructure construction; Mr. David Smith, representative of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program]; representatives of other international organizations; and representatives from the French and Finnish Embassies. The speeches and papers presented at the seminar emphasized the need to develop rural areas.

From September 1989, the UNDP-funded national project VIE/86/020 on assistance in development planning of rural residential areas has had some initial successes. These were in the pilot villages of Hy Cuong, Vinh Phu, Dai An of Hanoi, and Yen Bac and Ninh Yen of Ha Nam Ninh Province.

From these examples, it is clear that rural areas are still poor. However, they have potential which includes uncultivated hills, gardens, ponds, resources for producing building materials, craftsmanship, and a highly-educated and young labor force.

The development of rural areas is a coordinated and long-term task. Coordination among specialized sectors and echelons is necessary for its success. However, priority issues and key projects should be tackled first. There should be practical and effective policies and measures to identify and to shift appropriate industries such as the agricultural, forestry, fishery, and processing industries, to develop the rural areas. In addition, there must be infrastructure construction to help in the organization and management of rural areas, and the provision of initial capital to help peasants.

Journalists' Association Executive Committee Meets

BK1804055191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] The fifth executive committee of the Vietnam journalists association held its fourth conference in Ho Chi Minh City on 29 and 30 March to review and evaluate the implementation of the resolution of its third conference in 1990, and to discuss its work program for 1991.

In an animated manner, the participants discussed, analyzed, and contributed views to the 1990 work report and the 1991 work program of the Vietnam journalists association secretariat presented by Comrade Phan Quang, secretary general of the association. They unanimously noted that the press' activities have, in the recent past, continued to develop and prosper along the line of actively renovating itself in conformity with the process of renovation of the country, thereby contributing realistically to the country's political, economic, and social stability.

Information in the press has expanded and has been disseminated in a more diversified, timely, and attractive manner. The promulation of the press law has created favorable conditions for the press to operate in accordance with the law and affirm the right to freedom of the press for the people in general and the press circles in particular. However, the press law still has not actually and fully been applied to life and to the press' activities. Various legal documents have not yet been promulgated.

The year 1990 saw the effusion of Sunday and Saturday weeklies and weekend journals and magazines. This event has helped to further diversify our press. Actively participating in preparing for the Seventh Party Congress, newspapers and radio stations throughout the country have launched a movement among all people to contribute views on various documents of the congress. Compared with last year, greater attention has been paid to propagandizing new factors, while the struggle against negativism and corruption on newspapers has been stepped up.

Besides these impressive aspects, there have also been shortcomings, such as carrying news on a corruption case repeatedly at times, thus inducing a state of pessimism among cadres and the people. Some newspapers have resorted to the use of bitter and unconstructive words. Other newspapers, when discussing corruption, tend to put the blame on all those with positions and powers. It is a source of encouragement to note that the press' activities have now been diversified. However, phenomena of duplication have been reported in information work, while commercial tendencies have appeared in the press.

To enable every press agency to accentuate its own color along with the efforts of journalists, it is necessary for the state to have a comprehensive policy toward information work and the press. This is aimed at creating favorable conditions for the press to operate effectively in support of the multicomponent economy in a way that suits the law of the market-oriented economy and the management of the state, as well as to satisfactorily perform its functions as the means of information, speech, and tribune of the people. Meanwhile, plans must be formulated to rationally arrange the activities for the press throughout the country.

Speaking at the conference, the comrade members of the executive committee pointed out and criticized some negative phenomena exhibited by a number of correspondents in inspection activities, as well as in writing articles against negativism and against corruption. They also asked the comrades in charge of various press agencies to pay attention to this matter.

The conference heard and presented its views on a number of matters in the reports on inspection work in 1990 by the inspection board of the Vietnam journalists association. It also welcomed the efforts of the inspection board to join various responsible organs in solving a number of problems, thus protecting journalists in a fair and reasonable manner.

Particularly, on the case of Comrade Nguyen Van Cuong, director of the Lam Dong provincial radio station and excecutive committee member of the Vietnam journalists association who was dismissed from office by his locality, the conference requested that a dialogue be held with the participation of all the competent parties concerned to verify the truth. On that basis, the executive committee of the Vietnam journalists association will make an official announcement on this case.

The conference spent a lot of time discussing the association's work program for 1991 in order to most satisfactorily perform the task of actively renovating the press, satisfactorily applying the press law, and consolidating and improving the association's activities. The task of the press circles in the immediate future is to actively participate with a high sense of responsibility in preparing for the Seventh National Party Congress and making it a success. The conference also paid attention and contributed many views to the question of intensifying and improving the quality of the association's magazine, "JOURNALISTS AND PUBLIC OPINION," to make it truly the organ of the association.

On the afternoon of 30 March, the standing bodies of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee and people's committee held a friendly get-together with the delegates to the fourth conference of the fifth executive committee of the Vietnam journalists association.

Episcopal Council of Catholic Church Holds Meet

BK1504145791 Hanoi VNA in English 1312 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—The Episcopal Council of the Roman Catholic Church of Vietnam held its 11th conference here from April 6-15 with the participation of 24 among the total of 31 bishops. The seven others could not attend the meeting due to old age and illness.

The Episcopal Council in its closing document brought out achievements made by the Catholics in Vietnam in their evangelical life and in carrying out civil duties towards the country. The document thanked the administration of all levels for having created favourable conditions for religious activites.

On this occasion, the Episcopal Council sent an epistle to all the Catholic community in the country. The letter says: "May is a month of prayers for the Vietnamese fatherland, for the activities of the authorities, for the church and its activities, for fraternity and solidarity among people of all walks of life in the country, for justice, freedom and peace of the country, and for the happiness of mankind."

In response to the nation-wide campaign to make comments and suggestions to the Communist Party of Vietnam in preparation for its forthcoming seventh congress, the conference sent a letter to the party, expressing its joy at the initial achievement recorded in the current renovation process and welcoming the Communist Party of Vietnam's policy of canvassing public opinion. The letter also contained a number of constructive suggestions about religious affairs.

The conference elected Bishop Huynh Dong Cac of the Quy Nhon Diocese as the first co-adjutant of the Episcopal Council and congratulated Priest Nguyen Phung Hieu of the Hung Hoa Diocese in Son Ty on the outskirts of Hanoi on his consecration as Bishop.

After the closing session the bishops taking part in the conference paid a call on the governmental commission for religious affairs where it was received by Mr. Nguyen Chinh, acting chairman of the commission, who welcomed the results of the conference and reaffirmed the party's and state's policy on freedom of belief.

Economic Adviser Discusses Investment Prospects

BK1404102791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Interview with Prof. Nguyen Xuan Oanh, government economic adviser and director of the Ho Chi Minh City Investment Consultant Company, by an unidentified correspondent of the journal DAI DOAN KET; interview was given following the "International Forum on Investment in Vietnam" held recently in Ho Chi Minh City—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] Could you, doctor, speak of the prospects for investment brought about by the recent forum on investment, and, is there any high hopes of foreign investors pouring their money into Vietnam?

[Oanh] First I would like to affirm the success of that forum. We, for the first time, overcame passivism and took the initiative in introducing our potential. It is the view of many that the forum opened good prospects. If we get the investments, we will be able to gain more managerial experience from foreign countries, acquire modern technologies, and resolve the questions of capital and labor costs which are of utmost importance to us.

After the forum, I met members of various foreign delegations such as those from the FRG, Italy, Japan, and others who all maintained that the prospects for investment in Vietnam are bright. But it will be a long process to move from discussions to the start of various investment projects. We should not have too high expectations about foreign investors pouring their money into Vietnam. This is because they are coming to seek profits and not to help us. It is necessary to take into account the question of profits and losses once it comes to doing business. Foreign investors will come if they see our market as potentially profitable, and will leave if they find it unprofitable. The opportunity is now unfolding, but just like introducing a product, to make a dream come true we need to put forth much effort.

[Correspondent] Then what are the most necessary objectives we must achieve to attract foreign investment?

[Oanh] There are many things to be done by us, with the change of our mechanism being the first priority. We still face considerable restrictions due to our mechanism at a time when we are required to be very flexible and open-minded in attracting foreign investment. Foreign investors used to spend months, even years knocking on our door and waiting at one public office after another before they could achieve their aims. We used to give foreigners a most discouraging answer, that is, please wait for us to discuss it. Why do we clearly stipulate which echelons will be empowered with the decision-making? Foreign countries will concern themselves only with the final result without paying attention to what we are discussing. They will stay if they find their project workable, and will leave if it is unworkable. After entering Vietnam, foreigners have realized that our law on investment is very flexible, but it is very difficult when it comes to implementation. Therefore, our chief concern now is how to create favorable conditions for potential investors if they wish to enter Vietnam.

[Correspondent] What has made foreign investors pour into Vietnam en masse?

[Oanh] They have entered Vietnam because, first of all, they see that our political situation is stable. Foreigners fear civil unrest the most, for it may cause them to lose all they have invested in the country. To foreign investors, the Vietnamese market looks very attractive because we have a population of 64 million and still-untapped natural resources. If we continue to maintain our political stability and promptly change a series of our mechanisms, Vietnam will definitely be able to attract more investors.

[Correspondent] Could you, doctor, further elaborate on the need to change the mechanisms?

[Oanh] Let me take banking operations as an example. We are now talking about shifting to a market economy, but our banks continue to play the role of centers in which money is deposited and disbursed, and they are still unable to perform commercial functions. Money, though regarded as blood for a body to function, is being left idle. Then how can that body function smoothly? Even if the U.S. trade embargo is lifted, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would be very unhappy with the way our banks operate. Without money we can do nothing. Due to our existing mechanism, we are very cautious about sending men overseas, especially to capitalist countries, to gain management experience and to acquire new scientific and technological knowledge, whereas, China has sent 30,000 people to the United States and another 20,000 to Europe to learn new things. If we do not have qualified businessmen, foreign countries will not want to engage in joint ventures with us.

[Correspondent] Then what efforts should Vietnamese businessmen make to welcome investment and to do business profitably?

[Oanh] First I would like to say that the procedure adopted by government officials to explain various by-laws is not clear, thus causing investors to be confused. For instance, those explanations about quotas not reserved for enterprises with foreign investment and the rental fees for land use [words indistinct]. Vietnamese businessmen have, for the most part, resorted to bank loans. This way of doing things is childish. In doing business, we should pool our capital to obtain mutual benefit. As for our knowledge, it is too poor. I asked many enterprise directors what they would do if they had money in their hands. The answer was: I would build a headquarters and buy transportation means to go about work. This answer is unacceptable. We should first set aside money for profitable business before doing anything else. Therefore, we should concentrate on boldly training a generation of economic management businessmen without discriminating against their social class or political backgrounds.

Coal Corporation Boosts Exports in 1990

BK1804081191 Hanoi VNA in English 1159 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi, VNA April 17—Last year, the Vietnam Coal Import-Export Corporation (Coalimex) exported 783,900 tons of coal worth (?31) mllIion U.S. dollars and 770,000 roubles. This year, it plans to increase the export volume to 1.2 million tons.

To boost coal production and export, the corporation has effected new ways of payment in foreign trade, and collaborated with other companies and ports to better the processs of coal transporation, loading and delivery.

Since last year, Coalimex has returned to some West European markets after several years' interruption. It has also found new outlets in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bhutan, and Thailand.

Australia

Caution Urged on Proposal To Cut Immigration

BK1404091491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, April 14 (AFP)—The Australian Government's standing committee on migration urged Prime Minister Bob Hawke here Sunday to act cautiously on calls to cut next year's migrant intake to protect Australian jobs.

The committee's chairman, Andrew Theophanous, told a press conference that linking unemployment and migration was a misleading and dangerous move which could spark racial tension.

On Saturday Mr. Hawke endorsed a submission from Australia's umbrella Trade Union Movement, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), recommending that immigration be cut by about 20,000 next year.

The federal cabinet is expected to decide on the size of next year's immigrant intake within two weeks.

The ACTU cited Australia's worsening unemployment rate, currently running at about 9.2 per cent, for the proposed immigration cutback.

Mr. Theophanous said the ACTU proposal last week was based on a popular myth while evidence overwhelmingly shows immigration to be beneficial to the national economy.

"The statement from the ACTU panders to the dubious claim that migrants are coming in and taking jobs off Australians.

"This could easily inflame racial tensions in Australia," Mr. Theophanous said, adding that some people already blamed Asians for the current level of unemployment, the highest in seven years.

Apart from being inflammatory, the trade union proposal was not supported by economic argument, he said.

"The overwhelming evidence from a large number of studies, especially those undertaken last year under the auspices of the Bureau of Immigration Research, indicate that immigration makes a positive contribution to the economy and this includes assisting in the creation of jobs," Mr. Theophanous said.

Immigrants both stimulate demand for goods and services and increase the size of the local market, thereby bringing down per-unit production costs to the benefit of all consumers.

He said most new Australians were highly trained and many were able to fill skill gaps to allow new enterprises to proceed and ultimately create new jobs.

Most bring substantial sums of cash, helping Australia's balance of payments and contributing to business investment, he said.

The housing industry gained as well because most migrants worked very quickly towards home ownership, Mr. Theophanous said.

"The current unemployment crisis cannot validly be claimed to be caused by immigration and it is a shameful exercise to blame innocent immigrants for the current problems."

"The prime minister says he will look carefully at the ACTU arguments. ... I urge him to do so," Mr. Theophanous said.

The government cut the immigration quota from 140,000 in the year to June 30, 1990, to 126,000 in the year to June 30, 1991.

The actual number of immigrants to Australia in the year to June 30, 1990, was 128,000.

Fiji

Offer To Join Iraq-Kuwait Mission Accepted

BK1804040291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0336 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 18 (AFP)—Fiji has formally accepted an invitation from the United Nations to join the U.N. Iraqi-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), a government statement said Thursday.

The Fiji military forces will contribute eight observers and will divert a 110-man infantry company from its batallion in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to Kuwait.

UNIKOM Contingent Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Ulaiyasi Vosabalavu Vatu will leave for the Middle East this weekend, to be joined by seven other officers with the rank of major and captain on April 21.

They will be part of an initial deployment of 300 men from 30 countries along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The tour of duty for the eight men will be for a year. UNIKOM will be deployed into a demilitarised zone stretching 10 kilometres (6.4 miles) into Iraq and five kilometres (3.2 miles) into Kuwait.

Fiji has 1,100 men serving with UNIFIL and the multinational force observers in the Sinai Desert, between Israel and Egypt.

Premier Urges Unity Among Chiefs Before Polls

BK1704094791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 17 (AFP)—Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara urged traditional chiefs meeting here

Wednesday to unite in the run-up to Fiji's first general election since the 1987 coups.

Speaking a day after opposition groups expressed fears that the military-backed administration would seek a five-year extension to its term without elections, Ratu Mara said that "the country is bracing itself for the polls."

But he did not commit himself to a date for the election, which the government has suggested should take place this year.

Speaking in the Fijian vernacular, Ratu Mara told the 300 chiefs assembled here that "for the sake of their people and their country, unity is a must."

He said he felt that there was a need to consolidate traditional leadership and Fijian customs.

The Fijian Affairs minister, Lieutenant-Colonel Vatiliai Navunisaravi, said that the meeting, held at the Army's Queen Elizabeth Barracks, will decide on an election manifesto for the new Political Party for Fijians (PPF).

The Great Council of Chiefs decided to create the party after the government promulgated a new Constitution last July which guarantees a parliamentary majority and political power to the indigenous Fijian minority.

Indigenous Fijians will be represented by 37 seats in the 70-seat legislature. Of those 32 will be for rural areas where support for the chiefs is strongest.

Ethnic indians form the majority of Fiji's population.

In his New Year message to the nation, President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau said that he hoped elections could be held this year.

The main opposition group, the National Federation Party-Fiji Labour Party, accused the government on Tuesday of dragging the chiefs into politics.

"The future of the chiefly system is now in danger of being degraded by political manipulation for purposes which are of no benefit to the chiefs themselves," opposition executive member Temo Sukanaivalu said.

He said that the interim government, installed by the Army in 1987, was using the chiefs to stay in power, and that the opposition feared it would use the chiefs' meeting to get an extension of its term by five years.

Ratu Mara, a high-ranking hereditary chief, retorted that it was the chiefs' "right to enter the political arena, as they are political leaders under the traditional Fijian system."

He said the traditional Fijian system contrasted with Western democracy, which was based on the right of the individual and a parliamentary system which encouraged debate.

The chiefs' meeting is expected to end Thursday.

Election Commission Seeks Election Delay

BK1804041891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0346 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 18 (AFP)—Fiji's election commission said Thursday that it wants the deadline for the first general election since the military coups of 1987 put back by six months to July next year.

Qoriniasi Bale, joint chairman of the Electoral Commission and the Constituency Boundaries Commission, denied that he was under pressure from the military-backed government to delay polling.

"We've maintained total independence and there has been no political pressure," he told a news conference.

"The interim government has virtually given us an open book and has not interfered with us."

Mr. Bale said that it could take until June 1992 to complete the electoral rolls required by the Constitution adopted last July 25. He said that he would ask the government to amend the decree stipulating that polling take place within 18 months of the promulgation of the Constitution.

Opposition ethnic Indian groups alleged Tuesday that the government was seeking a five-year extension of its term, without elections, from the Fiji's traditional chiefs.

Temo Sukanaivalu, a member of the executive of the National Federation Party-Fiji Labour Party coalition, made the allegation as chiefs began meeting at the Army's Queen Elizabeth Barracks here to draft a manifesto for a new political party.

The new Constitution guarantees indigenous Fijians a majority in parliament, with 37 of the 70 seats, to 27 for ethnic Indians and six for smaller minorities.

The great majority of the Fijian seats will be in rural areas where the chiefs' support is strongest.

President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau promised in his 1991 New Year's message that elections would be held this year.

The army commander, Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, has said that he would prefer elections in 1992, a full five years after he overthrew the elected government, headed by the late Timoci Bavadra.

Mr. Bale insisted that his office would not seek further delays in polling.

He said that the redrafting of constituency boundaries would be completed by June this year, and that the following "12-month period is a firm timetable for us."

Registration of an estimated 398,874 adult voters would start in July and should take three months, he said.

Mr. Bale said the rolls would be complete by June 1992, and "We see no reason why elections cannot be held in July next year."

He said it was difficult for the two commissions to be ready earlier than that, "because of the amount of preparations that we're going to undertake in order to be properly ready."

An estimated 188,056 indigenous Fijian voters will vote for 37 representatives, 189,278 Indians for 27 reps, 5,202 Polynesian Rotumans for one seat, and 16,338 Chinese, part-Europeans and other ethnic groups for five seats.

Asked whether the commission could recommend that voter registration and voting be made compulsory to thwart plans by Indian parties to boycott elections, Mr. Bale said:

"That's a political decision. The Constitution does not provide that, but the government can amend the Constitution promulgation decree."

Elections Postponed to Jul 1992

BK1804072891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Fiji's Electoral Commission has confirmed that general elections will not be held this year. Speaking in Suva the commission chairman, Suva lawyer Mr. (Guanyasi Bale), has said elections could be held in July next year.

However, he rejected suggestions that the new date had been set because of pressure from the interim government. He said that on the contrary, the 12 month extension would give the electoral office time to prepare well for the elections. Mr. (Bale) said the Electoral Commission would ask the Interim Government to amend the decreed date which stipulates that the date of elections should be issued by the 25 January next year.

Mr. (Bale), who is also chairman of the Constituency Boundaries Commssion, said that in drawing up the constituencies, the commssion is working closely with the Lands Department and the Bureau of Statistics, which estimates there are 399,000 eligible voters in Fiji. Mr. (Bale) said the final electoral boundaries should be ready by June this year, so work on voter registration could get underway.

Cabinet Reshuffled; Rabuka Recalled To Serve

BK1804142291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 18 (AFP)—Fiji's military strongman Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka has been recalled into the cabinet and made a co-deputy prime minister with the home affairs portfolio, the prime minister said Thursday.

The 41-year-old leader of two army coups in 1987 will relinquish his military commander's post to take the home affairs portfolio, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said.

Ratu Mara has held the portfolio himself since 1989.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka's appointment from June 1 was announced at the end of a meeting of customary Fijian chiefs. It comes only a month after he declared his reluctance to enter politics for a while so he could continue his army role.

His promotion was seen as a move to groom him for a future leadership role over the new chiefs-sponsored Political Party for Fijians, a source at the meeting said.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka, who deposed Fiji's first Indian-majority government in 1987, was earlier dumped from cabinet by the prime minister in 1989.

He will be succeeded by Brigadier Ratu Epeli Ganilau, a son of President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, as the new Army chief, Ratu Mara said.

A dissident Methodist Church leader, the Reverend Manasa Lasaro, was given the cabinet portfolio of youth sports, previously grouped under the Education Ministry. Rev. Lasaro is close to Maj. Gen. Rabuka and has pushed for a total ban on Sunday activities here in line with the Methodist Church's sabbath day beliefs.

The appointments coincide with an announcement earlier that general elections, planned for this year, will be postponed until July 1992.

A cabinet source said the reshuffles were "well-received" by most chiefs and about 10 government ministers at the meeting. He said the move came as a result of a secret meeting between the prime minister, the president and Maj. Gen. Rabuka.

Thousands of Indians Emigrate in Coup Aftermath

BK1604121491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 15 (AFP)—Ethnic Indians are still emigrating from Fiji in their thousands four years after the Army deposed an Indian-dominated government, the Bureau of Statistics said Tuesday.

It said that 88.8 per cent of emigrants are Indians, mainly professionals, skilled tradesmen and their families.

Most left for Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States or Britain.

The number of emigrants leapt from 3,048 in 1986, the year before the two coups, to 5,118 in 1987, the bureau said.

Since then, there had been small but steady increases, to 5,496 in 1988, to 5,510 the following year and to 5,650 in 1990.

The Indian-backed National Federation Party-Fiji Labour Party coalition attributed the exodus of skilled workers to political uncertainty, while trade unions said it was causing a decline in standard of services in schools and hospitals.

"The standard of education is declining seriously," said Pratap Chand, secretary of the Fiji Teachers Union.

The bureau said that emigration was highest among doctors, scientists, dentists, engineers, pilots, architects, economists, accountants, jurists, teachers and writers.

It said semi-skilled workers were also leaving in hundreds every year.

The Public Service Commission has mounted an intensive training programme while also recruiting skilled workers from places like Sri Lanka, China, Nigeria, Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the United States.

Papua New Guinea

Reports on Bougainville Raid Aftermath Continue

Premier Admits to Consultations

BK1804111091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[From the program "International Report"]

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Namaliu, has finally explained the circumstances surrounding the landing of PNG [Papua New Guinea] Defense Forces on Bougainville Island at the weekend. He has admitted that the government and the Defense Forces had discussed Saturday's landing on Bougainville Island and that the Defense Forces had gone in at the request of a village chief in Northern Bougainville. Radio Australia's Helene Cheng asked our Port Moresby correspondent, Brian Abbot, for more details.

[Begin recording] [Abbot] Mr. Namaliu has had to say that the government and the Defense Force had planned on this landing on Bougainville Island. They planned it because village chiefs in the north of the island had expressed to the government that they were in deep fear of secessionist elements on Bougainville who are around the central part of the island around the Bougainville Copper Mine at Panguna. Mr. Namaliu said the villagers fear the BRA [Bougainville Revolutionary Army] and the secessionist elements who were demanding taxes from the northerners and also setting up road blocks in the area because they did not like the north of the island turning progovernment. The north of the island had requested the restoration of government services, shipping services to get their crops out, communications, and schools and all of that. And, because of that, the Army went in.

[Cheng] Well, does this suggest that the Defense Forces effectively control Northern Bougainville?

[Abbot] It certainly means that the Defense Forces do control Northern Bougainville because they blew up the bridge at Manetai which is the only roadlink between the secessionist stronghold in the central part of the island to the north. There are some 300 PNG Defense Force soldiers in the north of Bougainville and their specific job is to stop any BRA attempt on the north. Also, some of them are engineers and they were working on restoring some government services to the north.

[Cheng] Well, Mr. Namaliu says he has had a similar request for assistance from chiefs in the south of island. Are the Defense Forces planning to retake the southern part of the island?

[Abbot] Mr. Namaliu was quite concerned when I asked that question. I used the word: are you planning to invade the south of Bougainville? He said it was not an invasion. They had been invited into the north. He said they had had similar invitation from the southern part of the island, but as yet no plans have been made for troops to move into the south of the island, although the situation there is the same. They distrust the BRA and they want the government to restore the services there.

[Cheng] Brian, how unpopular is the BRA in the south?

[Abbot] Apparently, not as unpopular as it is in the north, but there is certainly some strong feelings against the BRA, partly their levelling taxes against the people to support their government and also do not want any contact at all with Port Moresby. But, most of the people on the island, it seems, do not agree with them. So, they are losing support rapidly from the people of Bougainville.

[Cheng] Do you know anything about the man who ordered the raid—Colonel Leo Nuia.

[Abbot] Col. Leo Nuia made one mistake. He tried to contact Port Moresby last Friday and tell them that he was going to make the landing on Saturday, but communications difficulties prevented him from doing that. So, all that has happened to him, he has been reprimanded by the government, but what he did was certainly in line with government policy and he is considered to be a friend of village chiefs in the north of the island, and has won their confidence and will continue as the commanding officer of those 300 troops on the north of Bougainville Island.

[Cheng] Brian, do you think today's revelations mean that the government has misled the public?

[Abbot] Not really. They were pussyfooting around, I suppose, saying they did not know the precise details and they were not prepared to make a statement until they knew the precise details. So, I suppose it is a game of semantics, really. They were making hints that this is what happened, that the soldiers went in at the request of the village chiefs, but the precise details, they were keeping very close to their chest until today.

[Cheng] What is the reaction of the Bougainville secessionist government going to be to today's revelations?

[Abbot]) Well, the Bougainville secessionist government has no time at all for the Port Moresby government. They do not trust one another. They consider the Port Moresby to be a government of broken promises. As far as the secessionist elements are concerned, they do not really abide by the Honiara Declaration which was the path to settling this whole secessionist dispute and Mr. Namaliu says that that as far as they are concerned they can go on doing what they want to do. The government will do what it wants to do, but it will not isolate the BRA people, because many of the people in those central regions support the government, but are under intimidation from the BRA. [end recording]

300 Troops Said in Bougainville

BK1804100891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Port Moresby, April 18 (AFP)—The government of Papua New Guinea has taken advantage of an unauthorised raid by its own forces to put 300 troops on rebel-held Bougainville Island, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said Thursday.

The landing is the first involving large numbers of troops since March last year, when the army withdrew after bloody clashes, leaving the island to the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

Mr. Namaliu told a news conference here that the officer who led the raid by 40 men last Saturday had been reprimanded.

But, he said, an investigation had shown "beyond doubt" that local people wanted the troops to stay "to carry out restoration of services and provide security."

Lieutenant-Colonel Leo Nuia, who led the raid, was reprimanded at a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday "for acting without prior and proper approval".

But for "the special circumstances," the prime minister said, "firmer action would have been taken."

Lt-Col Nuia was in charge of forces on Buka, a small island off the northern tip of Bougainville which government troops recaptured in September.

The government has now stationed 300 troops at Bonus and Soroken, in the far north of Bougainville, Mr. Namaliu went on.

"The landing was made without opposition and the forces, who include engineering personnel, have already begun the task of restoring services and providing assistance to the communities in the area."

Speaking in the presence of Defence Minister Benais Sabumei, Mr. Namaliu said that "it is beyond dispute that the landing and the presence of the security forces personnel on the northern section of the mainland has the support of the local chiefs and community leaders."

The NSC had therefore "approved the continued presence of the security forces contingent on the northern mainland."

Protest, 'Diplomatic Row' Flares With Australia

BK1504075891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Port Moresby, April 15 (AFP)—A diplomatic row has flared between Papua New Guinea and Australia over a plant disease which authorities here fear may have been introduced from Australia.

Authorities have protested strongly over the issue, accusing Canberra of failing to notify them of the potato cyst nematode (PCN) which has been evident in the Australian State of Victoria since January.

PCN is considered a serious threat to crops such as tomatoes and eggplant as well as potatoes and is difficult to control when introduced to a new region.

Papua New Guinea imports large quantities of potato seedlings from Victoria for its farms in the highlands region.

Both Foreign Minister Sir Michael Somare and Agriculture Minister Tom Pais have expressed deep concern about what they say is a lack of co-operation by Australia.

They say Papua New Guinea's agriculture faces a major catastrophe if the disease has been introduced.

In a letter to Sir Michael on March 19, Mr. Pais complained of the lack of information from Australia, requesting that his concern be registered with the Australian High Commission (embassy).

He said he was "deeply concerned at the attitudes of our nearest neighbours" who had not advised of a recent outbreak of PCN in Victoria potato fields.

Australia, he said, had thus broken the agriculture quarantine protocol between the two countries.

He said he had asked the health minister to impose a temporary ban on imports of potatoes from Victoria for planting or processing.

A protest note delivered by Sir Michael to the high commission said his government was concerned over the lack of notification regarding the PCN outbreak "given the understanding and working arrangements between both countries with respect to co-operation in quarantine matters."

The failure to inform Port Moresby was "viewed as undermining the stated desire of the Australian Government to promote neighbourly co-operation" with Papua New Guinea.

The extent of damage—if any—caused by the disease to the three crops grown in Papua New Guinea is not known.

A spokesman for the Australian Government's Quarantine and Inspection Service confirmed Monday that notices had been issued that the disease had been found in Victoria, but was not aware what steps had been taken to notify Papua New Guinea.

(In Canberra, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Spokesman Don Cumming said Monday that Papua New Guinea had been informed of the PCN outbreak on February 28.

("We were aware of this outbreak from the end of January but it was restricted to a market garden rather than a commercial production area, and in any case there were no potatoes being harvested in the area at that time," he said.

("It was quarantined on February 6. We suspected it was an isolated outbreak and that proved to be the case.

("We notified trading partners including Papua New Guinea and, given that there were no exports from that area to Papua New Guinea, nor were there likely to be, we believe we have adequately discharged our obligations as far as notification is concerned.")

Tonga

Main Church Leader Says Corruption 'Rife'

BK1804024891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0152 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Nuku'alofa, April 18 (AFP)—Corruption and neglect of ordinary people are rife in Tonga, the head of the kingdom's main church, 'Amanaki Havea, has said.

Mr. Havea, president for eight years of the Free Wesleyan Church, whose most prominent member is King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, said in an interview that most of the 56,000 members of his church were "wholeheartedly" behind calls from commoners for greater democracy.

"They want justice and they want a peaceful turnover from the present system," he said.

But Tonga's Parliamentary Speaker Noble Fusitua denied there was any discontent in Tonga, and said Mr. Havea was among churchmen trying to create an empire of their own.

Mr. Havea, 69, surprised observers here last month when he took a prominent role in a march on the royal palace to protest the granting of Tongan citizenship to Hong Kong and Taiwan Chinese as well as the exiled Marcos family from the Philippines.

He told the 1,500 protesters that ordinary people should speak out against injustices.

On Wednesday, Mr. Havea said he had received no criticism for adopting a political stance, saying he was entitled as a private citizen to do so.

He said the granting of citizenship and passports to foreigners in return for cash was wrong.

"It was unnecessary, and I think it is an injustice," he said. "They are giving land to these people while ordinary people, Tongans, don't have any land."

He said the issue was not racial. "The people's concern is not racism. Their concern is that the government is attending to the needs to these other people but neglecting its own people."

He said the poverty in Tonga was evidence that the government was neglecting health and welfare.

"There is a lot of corruption here, and people have had enough of it and are standing up and speaking out," he said. "What the government is interested in is not justice. All they see is some financial advantage for themselves."

He said the pro-democracy movement, sparked by commoner MP [member of Parliament] 'Akilise Pohiva, needed leadership. "The church has been so slow to move on this, we should have moved earlier."

In an interview, Tonga's parliamentary speaker said a petition proclaiming loyalty to the king had been signed by 6,000 people.

"We have people who believe the government is doing the right thing, that the system is the best for them at this time," he said.

He included Catholic Bishop Patelesio Finau in his criticism.

"I see those (Bishop Finau and Mr. Havea), with... their own little empire, and they're getting to the point where they believe their empires are not big enough," Mr. Fusitua said.

"So they reach out to grasp more and I think that has burnt their fingers. Their own people are turning against them. The sheep are turning against the shepherd."

He said opponents to the passport scheme were motivated by "pure, unadulterated racism."

Passports for Marcos Family Reportedly Gifts

BK1804020091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0132 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Nuku'alofa, April 18 (AFP)—Former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, his wife Imelda and their two children received Tongan passports as free gifts, a Tongan Government spokeswoman said here Thursday.

The Marcos family also were not required to take oaths of allegience to the Tongan monarch, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, Government Information Unit Chief 'Eseta Fusitu'a said.

Mrs. Marcos, her son Ferdinand Jr and daughter Aimee, were among 426 people named in the official TONGAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTEE as being "naturalized subjects of Tonga."

Most of the named people had paid at least 20,000 U.S. dollars for their documents.

The naturalizations of the mainly Hong Kong Chinese were found to have been unconstitutional and had to be restrospectively validitated in a special session of the Tongan Legislative Assembly late in February.

Mr. Marcos, ousted in a 1986 popular revolt in the Philippines that swept Corazon Aquino to power, died in 1989 in Hawaii. His wife currently lives in New York City.

The revelation that the Marcos family had Tongan passports—issued in July 1986, five months after they left the Philippines to live in exile in Hawaii—raised speculation in the Manila press that by taking out citizenship of another country, Mrs. Marcos had legally ceased being a Filipino.

The Philippines Constitution prohibits its citizens from swearing allegience to another country.

At the request of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, officials here reviewed the Marcos file. Afterwards Mrs. Fusitu'a, in an interview, said Mrs. Marcos like her husband and their children, had received her Tongan passport without an oath of allegience."

The file itself has not been made available publicly.

Mrs. Fusitu'a said she was unable to say who made the gift of a passport to the Marcos family.

Opposition political sources in the South Pacific nation claim that the king and Crown Prince Tupouta'a had called on the Marcos family in Hawaii and presented them with the documents.

Normal Tongan passports require a thumb print from the holder, but it was not known whether this was the case for the Marcos family.

Observers said it would appear that Mrs. Marcos's passport now is invalid in light of the retrospective legislation last month.

The law requires Prime Minister Prince Fatafehi Tu'ipelehake to certify in a naturalisation certificate that a person receiving a passport and naturalization papers "has duly taken the oath of allegience."